JULY/AUGUST 2003 ISSUE

Central Alternative

A PUBLICATION FOR CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA'S GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY

PrideFest 2003 WELCOME

See PrideFest 2003 Special Section on pages 7-14.The months since last year's PrideFest has been a time of remarkable progress for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community across Pennsylvania. We saw the passage of a statewide Hate Crimes law adding sexual orientation and gender as protected classes, and a State Supreme Court ruling allowing gays and lesbians to adopt their partner's children.

Join us at PrideFest 2003 in Harrisburg along the Susquehanna River, Saturday, July 26, noon to 7 p.m. as we celebrate the spirit of community that has brought us this far and continues to propel us forward towards equality and liberation.

A fresh line up of award-winning performers, local favorites, merchants and community leaders will gather along the mighty Susquehanna River for a party like no other. Be a part of history as we hold the first-ever "Commitment Ceremony" in Pennsylvania to be held as part PrideFest 2003.

The Celebration of Pride

2003 STILL WITHOUT CIVIL RIGHTS

By Rita Addessa, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF)

Since the founding of the first gay and lesbian organizations more than 50 years ago, the movement has made its voice loud and clear in a contentious struggle for freedom, justice, and equality.

Over time, a broad spectrum of community organizations and media have created the ground on which we have fought for visibility and liberation, for freedom from the strictures of oppressive laws or customs, and for basic civil, constitutional and human rights.

Scholars and community-based researchers have enriched that struggle in exploring the continuum of lesbian and gay history and in developing theories, knowledge, and strategies to guide our movement's work.

Over the last decade, progressive organizations have embraced the struggle for the rights of transgendered and bisexual people, and **all** minority groups that share a common struggle for basic justice. As we celebrate Pride 2003, it is important to acknowledge our rich legacy, remember our past, critically examine our present, and move forward with vision and solidarity in creating a fair and just society.

State of the Nation and Pennsylvania: A Civil Rights Focus

Across the nation, we have made painfully slow but tangible gains. Since 1982, 14 of 50 states have expanded basic civil rights laws in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations to include the category "sexual orientation." Of these fourteen, six states (three by statute and three court interpretation) include "gender identity or expression" as a protected category.

The courts have served as sources of both liberation and oppression. Of particular significance: In 1986, the US Supreme Court in *Bowers v. Hardwick* improperly upheld state sodomy statutes which criminalize "homosexual" relationships; a decade later, in *Romer v. Evans*, it overturned Colorado's Amendment 2, which would have excluded lesbian and gay people from the protection of law. In 1989 the same court in *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins,* recognized that gender stereotype-based employment discrimination violated Title VII.

In contrast to hostile court decisions in Kansas and Texas, a 2003 Florida court recognized the legitimacy of the marriage of a transgendered man (FTM) and granted custody of the couple's two minor children to the father (*Michael Kantaras v. Linda Kantaras).* In contrast to Pennsylvania's DOMA adopted in 1996, the state Supreme Court this year recognized lesbian

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What Else HAS TO HAPPEN?

By Frank Pizzoli

Will Santorum's Remarks Mobilize LGBT Ranks at Election Time?

If Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum's recent remarks comparing gay people to bigamists, polygamists, and incest lovers don't make you want to vote, then check your gay pulse.

What else has to happen before the LGBT community gets off its collective backside to mobilize and vote? How can any gay person ever again say," I don't vote because my vote doesn't count for anything"?

In 2006, when Santorum runs for re-election, every LGBT person's vote will count for decency and fairness in the political debate. In Pennsylvania, there are thousands upon thousands of LGBT voters, many of whom are not registered to vote, the first step in the process of creating change. Individuals interested in registering to vote can pick up registration cards at Pride Fest 2003.

We must finally turn out in great numbers to vote. We must finally turn out in great numbers to speak truth to our story. We must give the public a comparison of "Santorum's Reality" versus "Gay Reality" in Pennsylvania.

The whole Santorum affair began in April when he gave an *Associated Press* interview on the U.S. Supreme Court arguments in Lawrence and Garner v. Texas, the sodomy challenge that lead counsel Ruth Harlow of Lambda Legal Defense called "the most important gay rights case in a generation." The hearing rested on the "right to privacy" as outlined and protected in the US constitution.

The transcripts of Santorum's interview with AP reporter Lara Jakes Jordon, what I call "Santorum's Reality" or his view of LGBT life inside the state he represents, stand in stark contrast to what

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MIDTOWN CINEMA GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

How We Will Win OUR RIGHTS IN PA

By Stephen A. Glassman, AIA
Co-Chair, SPARC
Commissioner, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

SPARC was founded nearly seven years ago to build support among organizations and individuals for the expansion of civil rights protections in the Commonwealth to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Pennsylvanians. Last year the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition worked with friendly legislators and its organizational partners across the state to pass an historic bill which expanded the protections of the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include "actual or perceived… gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, and ancestry". In a state where the Republican Party controlled all three branches of government this legislation passed both the House and the Senate by a two-thirds majority and was quickly signed into law by former Governor Schweiker. We now have one of the most inclusive hate crimes laws in the country and we have proven that Pennsylvanians care passionately about equality, justice, and fairness for everyone who lives here. We have also established a base of support for further legislative victories and helped our elected officials understand why all future civil rights legislation must be inclusive of both "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression".

SPARC is currently leading a coalition of prominent organizations and individuals across the Commonwealth in an effort to successfully amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA) and the Pennsylvania Fair Education Opportunities Act (PFEOA). While strengthening amendments will address additional remedies, penalties, legal fees, and other deficiencies in the current acts, the impetus for this well thought out, strategic campaign is the addition of "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression" to the protected classes in both pieces of legislation. This is a long term struggle which we anticipate will take a minimum of three to four years to achieve and we are in this for the long haul.

There is a great deal of educational work to do with our elected officials in both houses of the legislature to achieve full civil rights protections in this state, and SPARC is the coalition which has proved its ability to effectively accomplish this task both in Harrisburg and across the Commonwealth. This year we have already met with more than 40 supportive members of the leadership of both parties in both houses to listen to their advice and to develop a strategy which will successfully accomplish our goal. We are working with the members who have already proven their willingness to support progressive, LGBT inclusive civil rights laws and are committed to seeing these two bills become law.

In November of 2002 this same coalition of active partners successfully passed an important and historic piece of legislation, which for the first time in Pennsylvania's history included lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in a state law. We worked six long years to achieve this goal and we accomplished it by building long term relationships with most of the elected officials in both houses of the legislature, Republicans and Democrats alike. The bill ultimately passed the Senate and the House by a two-thirds majority proving that there is a more receptive climate than many imagined for this kind of legislation if it is sensitively and appropriately handled. This coalition hired a well respected, politically sophisticated lobbying firm to work with us during the final months of the campaign and SPARC did the first ever polling on LGBT issues in the state to determine the level of support for this issue with results that topped a 70% favorable response rate. SPARC has recently received a $15,000 grant from the Human Rights Campaign to do similar, but more extensive, polling for the issues surrounding these bills.

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2nd Annual Gay & Lesbian FILM FESTIVAL

The 2nd Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is set for August 1-7, at Midtown Cinema, 250 Reily Street Harrisburg. Based on last year's attendance by nearly 1,000 moviegoers, organizers are expecting an even larger turn out this year.

"I'm happy to open my theater to the LGBT community for a quality film festival a second year," says Midtown Cinema owner Allen Brown. Midtown also has hosted a Jewish Film Festival and in May was home to the world premiere of a locally-produced African-American film that was so well attended, it had to be shown twice to overflow crowds.

Besides a chance to see films that otherwise would not be screened in the area, Brown says," Attendance at the Festival is a good way to promote two worthy organizations serving the region, Positive Opportunities and Central PA Pride. Each organization contributes to the quality of our lives".

"This year's selections are recent examples of independent films with appeal to the LGBT community", say Festival organizers Frank Pizzoli and Charlie Smith. Festival times and movie descriptions can be found at www.midtowncinema.com and on page 5.

The movies, which will be shown in a rotating schedule include: Cannes Film Festival favorite The Good Old Naughty Days (2003); Yossi & Jagger (2002); Food of Love (2001); and the something-for-everybody Km. 0 (2000).

All tickets are $8.00. The Film Festival benefits Central PA Pride and Positive Opportunities, a local nonprofit organization providing free benefits counseling and job placement services to HIV-positive people in central PA supported by Greater Harrisburg Foundation.

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Alternative CENTRAL

The mission of Alternative Central (AC) is to promote greater understanding and acceptance of central Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in their fight for basic rights. AC will provide a positive voice for the thousands of tax-paying, hard-working LGBT citizens who routinely make valuable contributions to the state's continued economic development and who regularly participate in many charitable endeavors within the greater community.

AC is published by the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc, a non-profit organization, and is the number one source on information and community events for the central Pennsylvania gay and lesbian community. AC is published bimonthly and distributed throughout the central PA LGBT community and to organizations and newcomers to the area.

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President's MESSAGE

By Charlie Smith, President,
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

Welcome to the premier edition of the LGBT community's new newspaper "Alternative Central." After piloting the last issue from a newsletter into a newspaper format, feedback was extremely positive. There were exciting reactions to the fact the LGBT community will finally have its own newspaper.

Last year, veteran journalist Frank Pizzoli and I talked about expanding the Switchboard newsletter into a bi-monthly alternative paper, but after many discussions we decided it wasn't the time. At that time, I was extremely busy with PRIDE, the Switchboard, and launching the new website www.AskGLSH.org. Derek Cordier, Ben Patenaude, Frank and I, toyed with the idea again and realized now is the time. So we had a few meetings with the folks at Benchmark Media (publishers of the Harrisburg Magazine, Lehigh Valley Magazine, At Home in South Central PA., just too name few publications), to organize a quality editorial product for the LBGT community.

The mission of Alternative Central (AC) is to promote a greater understanding and acceptance of Central Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and the allied communities that support their fight for basic civil rights. AC is a positive voice speaking truth the fact that LGBT people are hard-working, taxpaying citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who make valuable contributions to the state's continued economic development, in the workplace, and in numerous charitable endeavors.

In addition to our new newspaper, let me address volunteerism and the Switchboard. For the past 20-plus years, I've been volunteering one way or another in our community, and strongly believe that everyone benefits when we positively shape our communities' environments. By being a community volunteer, you gain a sense of pride and satisfaction from seeing the difference that you make in the lives of other people. Volunteerism also helps build leadership, management, and people skills. Participation in volunteer activities also provides the opportunity to network with the community. And believe me; what you give to your community comes back to you many times over.

I have seen our community change and grow because of the "right" volunteers. I had the pleasure of being associated with six of the most devoted people that I ever met in the 20 years of public service. These volunteers all live here in Central Pennsylvania: Frank Pizzoli with his community common sense, his focus on health and wellness issues, and his elegant writing for national gay magazines; Carol R - her strong business sense and commitment to follow through with getting the job done with no drama involved; Alberta Hamm, who puts herself in a public role supporting the transgendered community; Marcia and Sabrina who work hard to build community partnerships between business and the community;, and a man I admire much, Rob L, who has an enormous amount of energy, first-class business skills and is articulate in paying attention to details that far exceeds anyone I know. They have given much of themselves to the community and I have learned much from these individuals as they are true community champions. There is always much work to be done. Find an organization which you can apply your skills and time. Be a champion and volunteer in your community, but leave the drama at home.

These are exciting and changing times for the region's LGBT community, especially for the Switchboard. Do you know the Switchboard will be soon have been providing services to the region for 30 years? The calls coming in reach beyond the seven central Pennsylvania counties we serve. As the community moves toward a common community center, collaboration between organizations also becomes more important. But we need your help and support.

Whether you volunteer or contribute in a financial way - remember you are the one who can make a difference. I encourage you to become a member of the Switchboard and keep your community moving forward. We can't do it without you.

Letter FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the first edition of "Alternative Central" in its new format. Alternative Central has formed a relationship with Benchmark Media, Inc. and with their support we will bring you an informative and action provoking newspaper that will bring together Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, and anyone else who is interested in our community and our civil rights.

This first edition is very special because we have the Central PA PrideFest 2003 Schedule of Events printed inside for your convenience. At this year's PrideFest 2003 celebration we also commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Rainbow Flag with the reintroduction of two of the flag's original colors. Send in your subscription to Alternative Central to find out about the Rainbow Flag's history in our next issue.

Take notice of the articles from prominent members of the community who, through their efforts, have advanced the cause of equal rights for all. Rita Addessa has written on the state of legislation in this country and Pennsylvania. Dan Miller writes on being an advocate. SPARCs' Steve Glassman writes about SPARC's legislation. Frank Pizzoli writes about PA Senator Rick Santorum. We hope to continue this tradition of reader contributions, and eventually the entire newspaper will be reader written. We encourage readers to send in (info@AskGLSH.org) editorials, articles, cartoons, and poems for consideration.

It is especially important that we celebrate the strides made by the advocates who work everyday to help ensure our community obtains equality under the law. I believe we should support all of their efforts. You will notice Voter Registration (page 16) information in every issue of Alternative Central. Voting is our only chance for change.

Peace.
Derek Cordier
Benjamin Patenaude
Co-Publishers & Editors

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Gay Activist

REFLECTS ON HIS EXPERIENCES

By Dan Miller

I was caught off guard the first time I was identified as a 'gay-activist". Thirteen years ago, I attended a Harrisburg City Council meeting and was in a "heated" discussion with a council member concerning violence against homosexuals. Our encounter was taped and played on the 11:00 news. When I saw the caption, "Dan Miller Gay Activist," I was in shocked denial. I'm not a gay-activist, I'm an accountant. I suspect most of us would react the same way. After all, gay-activists live in Washington, D.C. or New York City and work for non-profit agencies. Besides activists are confrontational rebel rousers and that certainly is not me. Or is it?

My 14-year-old stepdaughter likes to tell me when her teachers make ignorant or discriminatory statements about homosexuals. She has a great understanding of this issue and can easily recognize when her teachers stumble. I am always waiting for her to tell me that she challenged the teacher on their comment. But that's not her style, at least not yet. Her "gay activism" is a lot more discrete. She prefers to roll her eyes, give the teacher a "look" and then discuss it later with her classmates. Although she would never consider herself one, she is a "gay activist" fighting prejudice and bigotry in her own way. She challenges her teachers' comments by discussing homosexuality with classmates from an accurate and rational viewpoint after class.

At a college class I recently met two homosexual students who would proudly label themselves as gay activists. They were great; full of enthusiasm, fearless and ready to change the world. They wanted action – now! They did not appear to be afraid to stand up to anyone concerning anti-homosexual discrimination.

"These real people next door completely undermine the Christian Right's homophobia."

In fact, one of them was considering law school and a job with a gay rights group. I admire those types of activists and used to think that is what we should all aspire to. Now I am not so sure. I think we need 'activists" of all types and styles at all levels of society, and not just those brave activists who are out in front. I know they thought my view was too conservative to suit them. I wondered if they felt I was doing enough for "the cause."

As a younger gay activist, I often wondered where the 40-60 year old activists were? Mostly I wanted to tap their resources for a great project, but I seldom found them. Recently, I met such a male homosexual couple through a friend. These men appeared to be living a quiet life in an upscale neighborhood. They would be more likely to label themselves as "gardeners" instead of "gay activists." I think they are both. I doubt that they volunteer with any local gay organization or contribute much, if at all to homosexual causes. Their passive activism is just being a stable, openly homosexual couple in the neighborhood. They volunteer to landscape and clean the neighborhood "common park area." Each year they host a really nice holiday party for their neighbors. They maintain a quality residence and help to anchor their community. These activities don't seem to qualify as gay-activism; but it is. I suspect their actions may be more important then marching on Washington or writing to Congress. This passive activism is valuable because it influences people positively. When PA Senator Rick Santorum says homosexuals are a threat to the American family – the neighbors think of this openly homosexual couple. The neighbors like this couple because they take care of their property, help other neighbors and are a stable influence in the community. This is in direct conflict with Santorum's hateful comments. These real people next door completely undermine the Christian Right's homophobia.

I know people don't like to be labeled, but I suggest that anyone who fights against homosexual prejudice and bigotry is a gay-activist. We may not all fight prejudice the same way, and that may be the best strategy. All types of activism are necessary and important – both active and passive. It is important to recognize all the ways gay activism occurs, and encourage it. The true personal struggle comes when you ask, "could I do more?" In most cases the answer is yes. How much more and how you do it depends on your personal style. First recognize and feel good about the activism we do accomplish. Then, if possible, try to do more.

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- Saturday July 5th - Anniversary party 6pm-8pm
- Sunday July 6th - Cruise party & show 9pm-??
- Tuesday July 22nd - Biscuit's Bingo 7:30pm-??
- Saturday July 26th - Gaypride Fest 2003 - Party at the 704 Strawberry after Pride Fest

AUGUST EVENTS
- Friday August 1st - GAY.COM party 9pm-12am
- Sunday August 17th - Show to benefit Children's Christmas Fund 9pm-??
- Tuesday August 19th - Biscuit's Bingo 7:30pm-??
- August 29th thru September 1st - Labor Day Week End Celebration

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PARTNERSHIP FUND CREATES Positive Change

The Equity for Gays and Lesbians Partnership Fund (EGAL), is an initiative of The Greater Harrisburg Foundation, and an affiliate of the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership (NLGCF). NLGCF awarded EGAL a $100,000 matching grant to fund organizations providing services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) person in the region encompassing Adams, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Perry, and York counties. EGAL's goal was to match this grant through local fundraising. **(EGAL has met the challenge by successfully raising over $100,000, and to date has provided funding to the groups in the box below):**

- Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom: $750 for books and honorarium for Rev. Mel White
- Common Roads: $15,860 for a youth drop-in center in Harrisburg to serve LGBT youth ages 14-22
- EGAL Partnership: $22,000 for feasibility study and business plan for a community center building
- EGAL Partnership: $12,500 for an EGAL Partnership Endowment Fund at The Greater Harrisburg Foundation
- Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg: $6,150 for creating a website
- Lancaster Theological Seminary: $1,000 for advertising and travel for Mel White
- Metropolitan Community Church: $5,000 for Just Jam social events at MCC
- Open Stage of Harrisburg: $1,000 for a resource directory distributed to various groups attending the Laramie Project
- Renaissance Transgender Association: $2,350 for the creation and dissemination of a healthcare referral database and related resource directory for distribution to high school counselors and professional therapists
- Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coaltion: $1,000 for a prototype workshop
- Woman's Circle: $2,000 for meeting, postage, rent, printing, and program materials.

EGAL's annual grant-making process is guided by the findings generated in the 2001 LGBT Community Needs Assessment. The priority areas identified in this assessment include legal assistance, referral programs for health and wellness services, domestic partnership rights, hate crimes, discrimination, workplace rights, and community/media education. 2003 represents the fourth year that we will provide funding for organizations that provide services and programs to improve the quality of life for gays and lesbians.

EGAL raised much of its funds through the 2000, 2001, and 2002 Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) fundraisers and FAB continues to be the primary fundraising event for EGAL. FAB 2003 will be held on November 22, 2003 at the newly renovated

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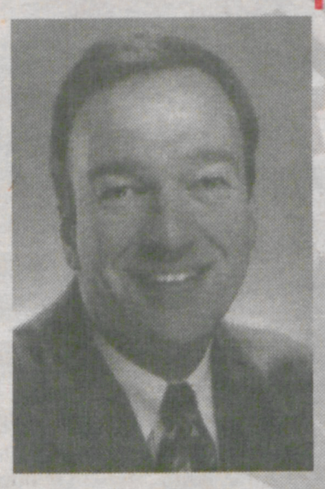

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2nd Annual Gay & Lesbian FILM FESTIVAL

August 1-7, 2003

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Food of Love (2001)

Genre: Gay, 90 mins., Spain, R
For only the second time, a work by acclaimed gay author David Leavitt is being brought to life on the screen. Ventura Pons directs a lush drama based on Leavitt's "The Page Turner" about a struggling young pianist searching for love on the streets of Barcelona and New York. *Theatrical release - Fall 2002/Winter 2003.*
Fri. August 1, - 7:30 p.m., Sat. August 2, - 5 p.m.; Sun., August 3, - 3 p.m.; Mon., August 4 – 5:30 p.m.; Tues., August 5 – 5:15 p.m.; Wed., August 6 – 9:15 p.m.; Thurs., August 7 – 5:30 p.m.

Km. 0 (2000)

Genre: Young, old, gay, straight, 105 mins., Spain, R
From Yolanda Garcia Serrano and Juan Luis Iborra come an exuberant farce filled with chance meetings, missed connections and mistaken identities as the lives of 14 very different people (young, old, gay straight) all inadvertently intersect one hot summer day at Km. 0 - the very center of Madrid. *Theatrical release - Fall 2002/Winter 2003.*
Fri. August 1, - 9:30 p.m., Sat. August 2, - 9 p.m.; Sun., August 3, - 8:55 p.m.; Mon., August 4 – 3 p.m.; Tues., August 5 – 7:30 p.m.; Wed., August 6 – 7 p.m.; Thurs., August 7 – 3 p.m.

The Good Old Naughty Days (2003)

Genre: Gay & Lesbian, 71 mins., R
A collection of French "blue" movies from the silent film era, from 1905 through 1930. An official selection of the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes 2002, this film is a compilation of restored erotic films form the 1920s.
Fri. August 1, - 3 p.m., Sat. August 2, - 3 p.m.; Sun., August 3, - 7:15 p.m.; Mon., August 4 – 9:15 p.m.; Tues., August 5 – 3 p.m.; Wed., August 6 – 5 p.m.; Thurs., August 7 – 7:30 p.m.

Yossi & Jagger (2002)

Genre: Gay, 65 mins. Hebrew w/English subtitles, R. A true story about two male officers in the Israeli army who both fall in love while serving in a remote outpost near Lebanon.
Fri. August 1, - 5 p.m., Sat. August 2, - 7:15 p.m.; Sun., August 3, - 5:30 p.m.; Mon., August 4 – 7:30 p.m.; Tues., August 5 – 9:30 p.m.; Wed., August 6 – 3 p.m.; Thurs., August 7 – 9:10 p.m.

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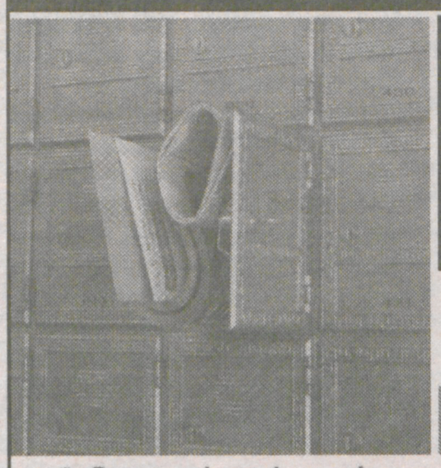

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Lesbian NOTATIONS

by Paula Martinac

Recently, I received a direct-mail brochure from a lesbian cruise company informing me that I had been randomly selected to win a "kids-under-10-go-free" vacation to Florida. This was the first parent-directed pitch I'd ever received from a lesbian-run business, and it seemed like an important sign of the times.

Granted, it was just a sales piece from a company that seems to have correctly pinpointed lesbian moms as a hot new market. They may have even gotten requests from dykes with tykes for such a vacation package. But it made me wonder, too, if there's been so much hype in recent years about our right to parent that it's now assumed most lesbians either have children or aspire to - even though many of us don't.

A colleague of mine has quipped that, when she was coming out in the '70s, the best things about being a lesbian were that (1) you didn't have to get married and (2) you didn't have to have kids. Ironically, 30 years later, marriage and parenting rights - which often go hand in hand - have become two of the top priorities of the LGBT movement.

Of course, lesbians were moms long before the current baby boom, but our kids tended to be from past heterosexual relationships. What's notable these days is that so many single and coupled lesbians are choosing to have children biologically or to adopt. Now there's an array of films, self-help books, and memoirs about lesbian motherhood; the most visible lesbians on TV - Melanie and Lindsey on Queer as Folk - have a baby; and Rosie O'Donnell framed her coming out last year in the context of being a mom. Adoption and foster parenting are open to us in most places, and eight states permit second-parent adoption, too. And the easier it becomes for us to parent openly, the more we do so; according to data recently released from the 2000 U.S. Census, about one-third of all female-partner households are raising children.

Truly, there's a revolution in parenting going on, one that deserves the unqualified support our community has given it. Lesbian parents may, in fact, hold an important key to progressive social reform. The mere visibility of out lesbian mothers helps create change in school districts and neighborhoods. Consider, too, a future generation of people raised by lesbian mothers who taught them the value of difference. Some studies even suggest that children of lesbian moms may grow up with fewer gender-role hang-ups.

But in our efforts to stand behind the many lesbian moms among us, I'm concerned that we may gradually begin to privilege one way of being a lesbian over another. Specifically, we may lose sight of the fact that women - lesbian or straight - who choose not to have children are also revolutionaries.

Societal pressure on women to have children is phenomenal, and to resist or reject motherhood in favor of another life course is a radical act. Girls still receive baby dolls before they can talk in complete sentences; as soon as they begin to walk, they get tiny strollers to push those dolls around in. Throughout my adult life, I've often been mistaken for straight

continued on page 12

A Welcome Change:
A CONGREGATION'S JOURNEY to becoming welcoming

by Sherri Holston

Nearly 100 people rose to their feet and cheered, their tumultuous applause echoing from the arched ceilings of the historic church. The votes had been tallied - 97% in favor of becoming an "Official" Welcoming Congregation. Having just celebrated its 6th anniversary, the Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley (UUCV) in Boiling Springs was now in the midst of another "celebration," or perhaps more appropriately, a "declaration".

The movement toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation started four years ago, when the UUCV in Boiling Springs formed a Welcoming Congregation Committee to help educate and prepare the congregation in anticipation of the decision to become an "official" Welcoming Congregation as defined by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Activities sponsored by the committee have included educational workshops, monthly events, social action in support of PrideFest 2003 and lobbying efforts at the state capitol to make violence against gays a hate crime. Our worship services have lifted up the inherent worth and dignity of people who are LGBT.

A recent "town meeting" was held to kick off the second and final series of workshops and to inform the congregation of the pending vote. LGBT and non-LGBT congregates were encouraged to attend the workshops and to explore, learn and grow together. The workshops were dynamic and very interactive with high turnout each week.

Closing the series of events was a LGBT Panel comprised of nine participants representing clergy, laity, business professionals, community leaders, and teens from outside the UU denomination. Every segment of the LGBT community was represented, some traveling long distances to share their personal journeys and answer questions from the audience. Some were stories of success and others were ridden with verbal oppression and violence. Many attendees were impacted personally by the panel, so much so that, in the end, they understood the real importance of becoming a welcoming church and making an "official" declaration to attest to their openness.

Becoming Welcoming Congregation is an important first step in the stand against oppression, but it is only the beginning. UUCV will now embark on the most important part of its journey - upholding to the community and the world its core belief of "...affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person. All are welcome to join us in worship regardless of age, race, religious background, class, or sexual orientation. We come together to support one another in our continuing commitment to a free and loving search for spiritual meaning and to the expression of that meaning in our community and in our personal lives." So be it.

How We Will Win continued

Major funding for our work comes from The Gill Foundation, The Funding Exchange, The Greater Harrisburg Foundation, The National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, and numerous private donors across the Commonwealth.

While you will undoubtedly see other versions of this bill to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act only the version advocated by SPARC has been crafted in conjunction with the attorneys at the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) and the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. Since the PHRC is the enforcement agency for these two laws we sought and received, at the request of the Republican and Democratic leadership, the Commission's approval for this particular legislation in a formal resolution, which was passed in October of 2002. Legislators will be seeking the advice and comments of the PHRC on this bill, and the Commission has already been well represented in all of the legislative leadership meetings organized by SPARC. These two bills, with reserved numbers of SB706 and SB707, are being prime sponsored in a bipartisan fashion by Senator Joe Conti (R. Bucks County) and Senator Allen Kukovich (D. Westmoreland County) along with 13 co-sponsors from across the state.

Following our successful strategy in amending the Ethnic Intimidation Act we have once again decided to work on passage of these bills in the Senate first followed by an effort in the House of Representatives. We have also been asked by our Senate supporters to wait until the budget negotiations have been finalized before making a formal introduction of these bills. We have agreed to do this because of the potential jeopardy in which Temple University may find itself due to its recent introduction of domestic partner benefits. There have been threats by several conservative legislators to de-fund Temple for this reason, and our friends in the legislature advised us not to introduce one more potentially controversial issue for the opposition to use against our community in an attack on one of our most prestigious universities. We understand the importance of cooperation without sacrificing either our integrity or our objectives.

For these reasons we ask you to support only SPARC's version of the Amendments to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and the Pennsylvania Fair Education Opportunities Act. Supporting other versions of the bill will only lend confusion to this effort and will waste the time and energy of activists across the state who are well meaning but whose efforts will be spent on bills that are not viable in the legislature. Thank you for your time and attention to this compelling issue.

By Philip K. Goropoulos

Is Health Really
THE ULTIMATE WEAPON?

Many of us within the LGBT community quickly dismiss such musings on health as vaguely disguised double talk by those working in HIV/AIDS – all, of course, uttered in a vain attempt to get gay men and lesbian women to once again care about the epidemic that has claimed so many of our friends over the past 20 years.

Strangely enough, aren't there sexier ways of trying to lure closet queens, drag queens, gym bunnies, leather daddies and all the rest of gay community back to HIV prevention messages? Reality check...just for a moment – the word "health" has never turned anyone on, or even turned a head (well, ok, some of us may have had to turn our heads...and cough). Simply put, anyone working with the gay community could tell you that pictures of guys with buff abs in tight shorts has always worked to sell us anything. Throw in the occasional ass shot and you've hit gold. Though we'd like to think we've evolved – let's be honest - for the most part we haven't (Have you seen all any of the hundreds of gay cruise ads lately?).

So, why all of a sudden all the talk about health? Could it be that health is truly the ultimate weapon? Could unlocking the mystery of health set us free? Have, in all of our struggles for equality, we forgotten the key and given them the lock?

Health for many has never been a major concern. We'd happily exchange our health for a taste of equality, the right to marry or even job non-discrimination (all without doubt important issues). But, in all our push for equality, should we be so quick to give away that which keeps us alive?

In the early days of AIDS, so many of us refused, for even a minute, to give up our right to party and our hard fought right to celebrate our sexuality anywhere and with anyone – some of those who made that choice are no longer here. They sacrificed their health for what they viewed as their rights. Today many more gay men are headed down a similar path – more and more local profiles appear each week on sites promoting un-protected sex and "condom-free" sex parties. Are we once again abandoning concerns about health to seek pure pleasure? What will be the cost this time?

Smoking has long been a gay vice, a vice of which some of us are proud, strangely enough. Tobacco companies have even begun to target ads and brands at gay men and lesbians (Remember the Marlboro Man?). Ask most queens holding a flaming stick to their lips if they'd quit – they'd rather go straight! As the smoke clouds our vision, do we ever wonder if any of us will be here for the party when the final bill grants us equal rights, or our would we have all choked on the smoke on the way to the ball?

Many gay men and lesbian women continue to hide. Others not hiding fight the demons of depression each day. They struggle alone, often unsure as to where and if help is available. How many of us have attempted therapy only to be told that being gay was truly our problem? It's not supposed to happen, but it does. These struggles and fights aren't to be cured by a senator's pen or the click of a heel. How many of us will be able enjoy our legislative equality if each day we live to hate ourselves and those around us?

The question of health is a question of equality. Denying the existence of health issues, preventing adequate care, and ignoring the health needs of special populations all are simple means to oppress us and others. For us, the oppression begins at home where we sit in silence and ignore a major issue that threatens our lives. I guess, in a way, health is the ultimate weapon. If we don't care enough about ourselves and our own health, then why would we even notice that our lives have less value, our jobs are not secure and our love is still illegitimate?

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of South Central Pennsylvania

Sylvia D. Hepler
Executive Director

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For Additional Information on this and other upcoming events to benefit AIDS Community Alliance please call 1-800-867-1550

PFLAG

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- Speakers Panel
- Strickly Confidential

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717-728-8800
Daytime phone
717-795-0330
pflagcenpa@yahoo.com

Welcome to PrideFest 2003 July 26

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to this year's PrideFest. I feel that this PrideFest will be the best one yet. We are the first Pride Festival in Pennsylvania to have a Mass Commitment Ceremony and Blessing of Relationships. The first! Isn't that great?

Our theme this year is celebrating community. This year has been a big year for our LGBT community with the passage of a statewide Hate Crimes law adding sexual orientation and gender as protected classes, and a State Supreme Court ruling allowing gays and lesbians to adopt their partner's children. Our work as a community is not done; we have more to do yet. We need ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, partner benefits, a Fair Housing Act, broader adoption rights, and eventually the right-to-marry in the state of Pennsylvania.

We have a great line-up of entertainers on the Main Stage, and as always, we have the Cabaret Stage which features our Drag Queens from Central Pennsylvania. We also have some local favorites performing, great merchants, great food, and a great time for all.

We are also associated with the 2nd Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival of Central Pennsylvania to be held August 1 – 7, 2003 at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema. There was a great response to the Festival last year, and we expect it to be more successful this year. We will have more information about the Film Festival at our information booth.

I want to thank everyone who has helped to make this year's Central Pennsylvania PrideFest a reality. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to make it all possible. A special thank you goes to our volunteers from the MCC of the Spirit Church in Harrisburg. They have done a lot for PrideFest this year, and their hard work is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

I invite you to relax and enjoy our beautiful location along the Susquehanna River, and have a great time at the 2003 Central Pennsylvania PrideFest!

Judy Chambers
Chairperson

The History OF PRIDE

At a time not long ago, the social climate against sexual minorities made police raids very common for many of the places gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people gathered. But on June 27, 1969, the patrons of a small New York City bar called The Stonewall Inn fought back in a three day resistance that spilled out on the streets of Greenwich Village marking the birth of the modern gay rights movement. Today, millions of people each year gather to commemorate this historical turning point in hundreds of Pride marches and Pride festivals throughout the world.

PRIDE .03 SECTION

"Silent Witnesses" PROCLAIM ALL ARE LOVED

The forecast for this years' Harrisburg Pride Festival held is clear and sunny with a high of 82 degrees. That is the hope anyway. Maybe we can't predict the weather but we can pretty much guarantee all will have a good time this year. There will be live entertainment, fantastic food, exhibitors selling their wares, and fun and frolic for all! Oh, and yes, there will be those, those…those…those protesters. Those condemning the GLBT community for whom they are.

Hey, but wait a minute! Who are those standing amongst the protesters with signs of positive messages? Signs such as, "I am Christian and I am Gay!", "God loves us all!" and "Gay is O.K." Those signs come from the silent witnesses.

The Silent Witness Program was started four years ago by a single person who had the courage to stand outside the gates with the protesters and hold up a sign with a different message. The idea to present a different, more positive message gained momentum and has continued to grow over the years. Participants in the Silent Witness program have come from many different religious backgrounds and some come with no religious background, only a desire to encourage diversity and proclaim that "it's ok to be gay!" The program gives festival participants and attendees a "different" message. A message that is not condemning, degrading, and judgmental but rather uplifting and positive. The witnesses do not engage the protesters; rather they stand silently allowing the signs to do the talking.

The silent witnesses are not there to do battle. They are there, practicing their right to freedom of speech, in order to give the GLBT community and its allies a positive and supporting message. They are there to encourage diversity. Those participating in the Silent Witness Program are there for the festival participants and attendees, many of whom have thanked the silent witnesses for the positive, welcoming message they present at the gates of Pridefest. "We are there to let all celebrating Pride Day in Harrisburg know that they are loved just as they were created. Whether they're gay, heterosexual, bisexual, transsexual, or transgendered, they are loved. It's as simple as that," says Yvonne Wilson, organizer of the Silent Witness program.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Silent Witness program or participating in this year's program is encouraged to contact Yvonne Wilson at ydwilsonpa@aol.com.

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Gay History 101

From the Rainbow Flag to the AIDS Quilt, from the Mattachine Foundation to ACT-UP, from the Stonewall Riots to the March on Washington, there are people, objects and events that have defined our evolving gay consciousness. Here are a crucial few:

1924
Henry Gerber receives a nonprofit charter for the Society for Human Rights, the first formally organized homosexual rights organization in the US

1937
The Pink Triangle is used by the NAZI's to identify homosexual in NAZI prisons and camps

1950
The Mattachine Foundation is formed in Los Angeles by radical pioneer Harry Hay with the goal of ending discrimination of homosexuals

1955
Founding of the Daughter of Bilitis, one of the nation's first lesbian organizations

1969
Plainclothes police enter the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village to harass gay patrons. The patrons fight back and the melee spreads into three days in what is now known as the Stonewall Riots, and widely considered to be the start of the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement

1970's
Pink Triangle is readopted by Gay Liberation Activists as a symbol of revolution pride

1970
National Organization for Women (NOW) founder Betty Friedan calls lesbians "The Lavender Menace". In response, NOW lesbians don "Lavender Menace" T-Shirts to NOW Events

1971
NOW approves its first resolution supporting lesbian rights

1974
The International Gay Rights Congress adopts the Lambda (?) symbol

1978
The Rainbow Flag with the original eight colors (hot pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, violet for spirit) debuts at San Francisco Gay Freedom Day. Hot pink was eventually dropped because it limited mass production of the flag. Turquoise was eventually dropped for symmetry for display on lamp posts in San Francisco

1979
California's first openly gay official, San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor Geoge Moscone were assassinated by former City Supervisor Dan White the previous year. White's "twinkie defense" – that he could not be held accountable for his actions due to the amount of junk food he had eaten on the day of the murders – contributed to a light sentence that outraged the San Francisco gay community and sparked the White Night Riots
The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the first gay on Washington, draws 100,000 marchers

1987
First public display of the The AIDS Memorial Quilt

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power or ACT UP, is founded, revitalizes the lesbian and gay rights movement, and adopts the ubiquitous Silence=Death logo with the Pink Triangle pointing up to symbolize empowerment

1991
Queer Nation, the in-your-face-direct-action group to formed to fight anti-gay violence and discrimination and promote visibility is founded

1993
The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Rights and Liberation draws a million marchers

1996
The AIDS Quilt covers the full-length of the National Mall in Washington DC and draws 1.2 million visitors

2003
The Rainbow Flag, now the most recognizable symbol of the LGBT community, is 25 years old and is restored to the original eight colors

Special THANKS

The Pride Festival Committee wishes to thank the following people, businesses, organizations and sponsors for their help and support in making PrideFest 2003 a great success!

Mayor Stephen R. Reed
The City of Harrisburg
Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg

The Owners, Management and Staff of
Altland's Ranch
Neptune
Stonewall
Tally-Ho
The Velvet Rope
Chumley's
Peachies
704 Strawberry
The Pink Lizard
Club 168
Scarab
Sundown Lounge
The Brownstone

All the Drag Performers who donated their time and talents

Rev. Eva O' Diam and MCC of the Spirit
Mark Smith
Unitarian Church of Cumberland Valley
The Pennsmen
Renaissance LSV

and all the volunteers who supported our events!

2003 PrideFest COMMITTEE

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Vice Chair
Rey Lacaba

Secretary-Treasurer
Marc –Caroll Rigel

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Frank Pizzoli

Volunteer Coordinators
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Tom Powers

Miss Central PA Gay Pride Promoters
Ms. Visa De Kline
The Pink Lizard

Cabaret Stage Coordinator
Glen Wagner

Equity for Gays & Lesbians continued

Strand-Capital Performing Arts Center in York featuring comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer. The catered event also includes a silent auction.

In addition to FAB events, EGAL has extended the scope of its fundraising to include donations from individuals who are supporters of gay and lesbian issues. To become part of this initiative, you can make a personal donation to EGAL to support services and programs for the LGBT community by contacting the Greater Harrisburg Foundation at (717) 236-5040, or by mailing your contribution to The Greater Harrisburg Foundation/EGAL, PO Box 678, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678.

PRIDE .03 SECTION

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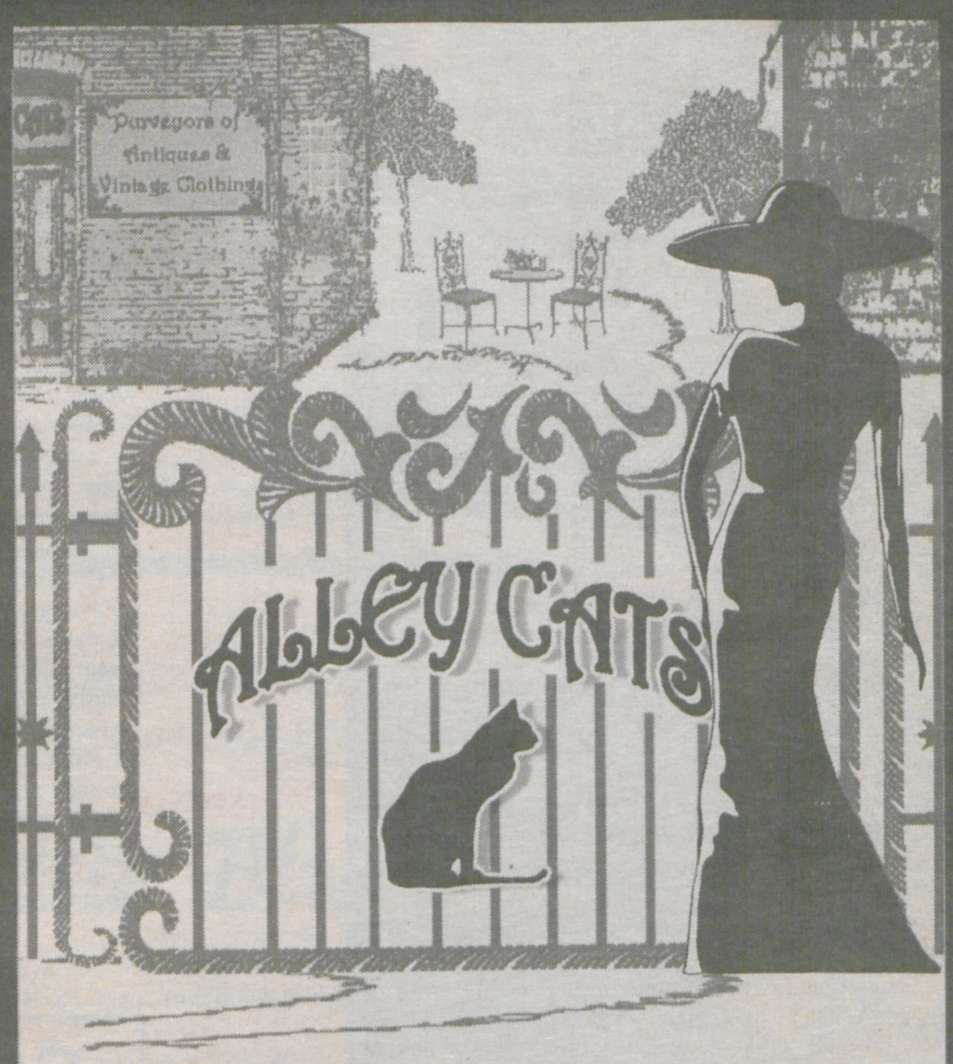

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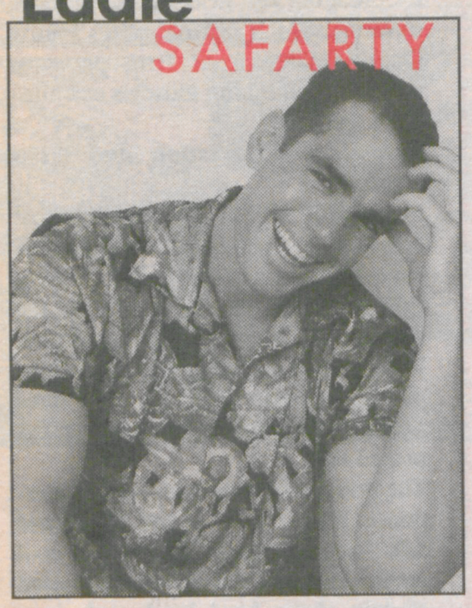
Eddie SAFARTY



Stand Up New York Search for Funniest Gay Comic Winner

On parents: "They found out that I was gay when my Mom found my diary - opened it up to Marine Corps fantasies. She still swears that she came across it by accident, that she was not snooping - that she was just straightening up my lingerie drawer!"

Eddie Sarfaty performs regularly at major comedy clubs in New York City including **Caroline's, Gotham Comedy Club** and **Stand Up New York** where he was a winner in their search for the funniest gay comic. He has delighted crowds all over the U.S., appearing at **The Toyota Comedy Festival in New York** as well as comedy festivals in **Columbus, Detroit, Miami, Phoenix and Washington, DC.** Eddie has entertained at numerous cabarets, on college campuses and at fundraisers for a variety of social and political organizations. For two years he toured the country as one half of **"Two Consenting Adults"**, receiving fantastic receptions from both gay and straight audiences. (As well as some unexpected fan mail from Pat Robertson.) He has spent several summers entertaining audiences on **Key West, Fire Island,** in **Rehoboth** and in **Provincetown,** is the newest member of the groundbreaking troupe "**Funny Gay Males**" and has been a featured performer for **Atlantis Cruises** and **RSVP Vacations.**

Eddie Safarty's transportation was provided by Omega World Travel-York Office and AMTRAK

www.KeepLaughing.com

Rachael SAGE

2001 John Lennon Songwriting Contest Grand Prize Winner

"...her own name suggests earthiness, color, and emotion, and all this she embodies. With all the guitar slapping and meatiness of Ani Di Franco...Sage has folk on the brain and piano keys for hands and is sure to put on a show sublime."- *The Village Voice*

A self-described "mystical-realist," Rachael is an extremely prolific lyricist and musician, composing sensual, ethnically-tinged pop primarily on piano or, if none is on hand, on a variety of local East Village cafe napkins. "I write songs about everything: what I read in the newspaper, what's happening in my romantic—or unromantic life, a difficult situation a friend has confided to me...Basically, I'm a creative venus-flytrap," she admits with menace, and no color, phrase, fabric (she hand-paints much of her clothing) or conversation she's overheard seems to be safe from her artistic consumption.

A firm believer in the supremacy of melody over negativity, Rachael has spent much of her musical life refining strong hooks and creative song-structures that anchor her unique and compelling writing and vocal abilities. Rachael plays piano with a distinctive, classically-influenced style, accented by arpeggios and romantic flourishes.

www.RachaelSage.com

Eric HIMAN

"Delivers near knockout...start stop riffage and sweet harmonic." - *Centre Daily Times*

Although born in South Carolina, Eric Himan, singer-songwriter, has a hard time explaining where he is from. "My father was in the Air Force so we moved all around from New York and New Jersey to Hawaii and Florida." For his 8th birthday, Eric was given an electric guitar, but found he was drawn instead to the sound of his sister's acoustic, and studied under the teachings of his father, a New York City jazz musician of 30 years. Eric began his songwriting career at the age of 12, playing in talent shows and at neighborhood recitals. Within these early years, he discovered that he had a unique and rather powerful voice that echoed down the halls of his Fort Walton Beach, FL home.

Eric Himan takes his audiences through an emotional and rewarding journey.

As he looks for ways to creatively express himself through sound, Eric's passion for writing and performing continue to grow stronger with each passing day. "It's always been easier to express myself through songwriting more than any other outlet...Songwriting involves a message, a presence and foremost a root that leads right down to the soul.....I always feel everyone one of my songs right down to the root, the idea or feeling that made me write the song in the first place."

www.EricHiman.com

The BootLickers

Philadelphia Weekly: Best Gay Band Winner

"...frank, often clever lyrics; strong harmonies; moving ballads; and foot-tapping melodies." - Philadelphia Gay News

Begun in the 3rd floor walk-up apartment in Center City Philadelphia in the wee hours of New Year's Day, 1995, the BootLickers have broken 3000 strings, cracked 57 picks, destroyed two amplifiers, blown several speakers, sustained head injuries, barely escaped electrocution, and suffered severe dehydration - all in the hopes of achieving pop/rock nirvana!

After several unstructured rehearsals, the band found itself in front of other entertainer wannabes at open mic's around the city. Raising more than a few eyebrows at the shows, the band decided to seek out paying gigs and expand their following, initially at Philly's most notorious leather/levi bar the Bike Stop. The BootLickers Sunday night residency at the Bike Stop allowed the band to hone their skills as musicians as well as entertainers. Anything that could've gone wrong – did! But, somehow, the band prevailed and became a Sunday night institution!

Today, the BootLickers have become an industry to be reckoned with—festival headliners, merchandizing entrepreneurs, stars of the airwaves, and now…the release of Universal Nancy, their "very promising debut" CD which has been acclaimed by critics as "charming", and "clever, mixing delicious irony and heartfelt lyrics". The BootLickers power pop sound has been described as "one part Go-Go's, two parts Beatles, and a dash of Dollywood!"

www.TheBootlickers.com

PRIDE .03 SECTION

Jessica OWEN

"...graceful melodies and surprising lyrical twists, rises above most of the rest of the singer-songwriter pack."

- *The Sunday Star-Ledger*

Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Jessica's captivating voice and enthralling stage presence have been winning her high accolades, in the form of awards, showcases and press, both in Canada and the United States. She is a compelling songwriter with an unmistakable ability to draw you into her explorations of life and the human experience. In the same vein as storytellers Ani Difranco and Sarah McLachlan, Jessica's beautiful voice journeys through her unforgettable melodies and powerful acoustic guitar playing. Whether it's an infectious groove or a heart-breaking confessional, Jessica always delivers with exquisite style and honesty.

www.JessicaOwen.com

MCC of the Spirit Gospel Choir

MCC of the Spirit Gospel Choir returns for its fourth year at PrideFest with David M. Glasgow, Musical Director.

MCC METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SPIRIT

Skott Freedman

2002 OutMusic Best New Recording - Male

"...one of the more compelling popsinger/tunesmiths we've heard in recent times. A star in-waiting." - *Billboard Magazine*

Skott Freedman's musical career began at the age of six, overdramatically slowing down "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" on the family's small, electric organ in the basement till he felt it was "moving enough" to bring tears. When he dragged his parents downstairs to listen, they hesitantly smiled and said, "Um...good honey, keep working at it...". Seventeen years later, Skott Freedman is one of the most exciting singer/songwriters to emerge on the independent music scene. His work has been both nationally and internationally recognized as devoted fans are becoming increasingly aware of this 23-year-old rising star each year. Freedman has toured all over the United States and Australia with a special guest performance at the Sydney Opera House this past fall. Freedman's stunning three and a half octave voice varies in its flexibility, ranging from the fiery outbursts in "Fairytales" ("Well it can't always be like the fairy tales that we used to believe and sooner or later time's gonna run out") to the soft, barely audible whisper in "Angels in the Snow" ("I knew you'd be leaving, I didn't know how soon...my life emptied out in a single afternoon"). Rich in tone and pungent with emotion, Freedman uses his voice as a true instrument, varying the expression and intensity with every note. The final product sends the listener on an emotional roller coaster ride.

Skott Freedman's transportation was provided by Omega World Travel- York Office and US Airways

www.SkottFreedman.com

PrideFest 2003 Entertainment Schedule

The Velvet Rope Stage

12:00 p.m.	MCC of the Spirit Gospel Choir
12:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks by the PrideFest 2003 Committee
12:35 p.m.	Commitment Ceremony
12:55 p.m.	Musical Tribute to the Couples
1:00 p.m.	Stand-Up Comedian and MC Eddie Safarty
2:00 p.m.	Skott Freedman
3:00 p.m.	Rachel Sage
4:00 p.m.	Eric Himan
5:00 p.m.	Jessica Owen
6:00 p.m.	The BootLickers

Glenda's Cabaret Stage

1:00 p.m.	Welcome Address
1:10 p.m.	Dorie and Mare Show aka Johnny Cash and Elvis
1:50 p.m.	Glenda and Friends
3:30 p.m.	Natalie Darkes
4:30 p.m.	Glenda and Friends
5:40 p.m.	Jan & Nevin – From Broadway with Love
6:10 p.m.	Glenda and Friends
6:45 p.m.	Men of Rainbow

Program subject to change without notice.

PrideFest Site Rules

1) **Wristbands must be obtained at the entrance and worn at all times**
2) **No tampering with or attempt to cross over security fencing**
3) **Pets must be leashed at all times and owners must clean up after their pets***
4) **No attaching of posters, signs, placards, etc. to any trees, poles, monuments, or buildings***
5) **No defacing, disfiguring, damaging, or tampering with park property***
6) **No throwing of litter, liquid, or solid in any fountains, pond, lakes or rivers***
7) **No digging, removal, marking or defacing of any rocks, stones, trees, etc.***
8) **All trash must be disposed of in provided receptacles***
9) **No building or attempt to build a fire***
10) **No admittance for anyone under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs***
11) **Possesion of drugs and/or alcohol is prohibited***

Any person(s) violating these rules will be escorted out of the festival area.
**Harrisburg Parks and Recreation Department Rule*

Keeping Your Fun in the Sun

We want you to have a fun and safe time at PrideFest. And as with any outdoor summer venue, we must all avoid prolonged or intense exposure to hot temperatures which can cause heat-related illnesses. Heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heat stroke can occur when your body cannot cool itself adequately. So, here are a few tips to keep you safe when it,s sunny.

Driving Directions

Spanning a five-mile length of downtown Harrisburg up past the Governor's Mansion and running along the east bank of the Susquehanna River with views of bridges and islands, Riverfront Park is considered the most scenic inland waterfront in the nation and is home to the annual PrideFest.

From NJ/Philadelphia/Lancaster: PA Turnpike west to I-283/PA-283 exit, exit number 19, towards HARRISBURG/HERSHEY. Merge onto I-283 N. Stay straight to go onto I-83 S. Take I-83 South (Harrisburg) to Exit 43-Second St and follow to the traffic light at Chestnut St. Turn left onto Chestnut St. and follow to traffic light (South Front St).

From Pittsburgh: PA Turnpike east to I-283/PA-283 exit, exit number 19, towards HARRISBURG/HERSHEY. Merge onto I-283 N. Stay straight to go onto I-83 S. Take I-83 South (Harrisburg) to Exit 43-Second St and follow to the traffic light at Chestnut St. Turn left onto Chestnut St. and follow to traffic light (South Front St).

From Baltimore/York: Merge onto I-83 North. Take Exit 43 to Second St and follow to the traffic light at Chestnut St. St. Turn left onto Chestnut St. and follow to traffic light (South Front St).

From I-81: Take the Front St. Exit and follow south along Riverfront (Susquehanna River). The festival site is beyond Market St.

What to look for:

HEAT CRAMPS

- Severe, sometimes disabling, cramps that typically begin suddenly in the hands, calves, or feet
- Hard, tense muscles

HEAT EXHAUSTION:

- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Headaches
- Excessive thirst
- Muscle aches and cramps
- Weakness
- Confusion or anxiety
- Drenching sweats, often accompanied by cold skin
- Slowed or weakened heartbeat
- Dizziness
- Fainting
- Agitation

Heat exhaustion requires immediate attention but is not usually life-threatening.

HEAT STROKE:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Headache
- Dizziness or vertigo
- Fatigue
- Hot, flushed, dry skin
- Rapid heart rate (160 to 180 beats per minute)
- Decreased sweating
- Shortness of breath
- Decreased urination
- Blood in urine or stool
- Increased body temperature (104 to 106 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Confusion, delirium, or loss of consciousness
- Convulsions

Heat stroke usually develops rapidly and can cause permanent brain damage or death if not treated promptly. Anyone with heat stroke needs emergency medical attention.

Parking Directions

Parking is available within a short walk of the festival entrance:

Walnut Street Garage
215 Walnut Street
between 2nd and 3rd Streets

River Street Garage
218 N 2nd Street
between Locust
and Pine Streets

Pinnacle Health
Free Parking Lot
2nd and Vine Streets
(Do NOT park in the Pinnacle Health Garage)
Handicapped parking is available at designated areas near the festival entrance.

WHAT TO DO

Heat cramps can usually be alleviated by escaping the heat, drinking salty beverages, and eating salty foods. Gentle massage or firm pressure applied to cramping muscles can alleviate spasms.

For Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke:

First, GET HELP. It is critical that emergency medical assistance be called as soon as possible. Notify PrideFest Staff or go directly to the Emergency Medical Service ambulance parked on-site. Then, if possible, get the victim to drink, but don't force fluids if the person is confused or has passed out.

The primary treatment for heat exhaustion is replacement of lost fluids and salt. Victims should move to a cool environment, lie flat or with feet raised slightly above head level, and sip a cool, slightly salty beverage -- such as a salty sports drink, salted tomato juice, or plain drinking water with salt added (one level teaspoon of salt per quart of water).

For heat stroke, move the victim into the shade; wrap the victim in cool, wet clothing; or remove the victim's clothes and sponge his or her body with cool water. Ice packs can be placed on the groin, neck or underarms; or the victim can be fanned by hand.

So, while a heat-related illness can sometimes be serious, an ounce of prevention is still worth a truckload of cure. By simply taking breaks in shaded areas under trees or tents, and drinking plenty of fluids, you can keep your cool throughout any sunny day.

Source: Understanding Heat Illness, from WebMD Health

DEREK J. CORDIER
Attorney at Law

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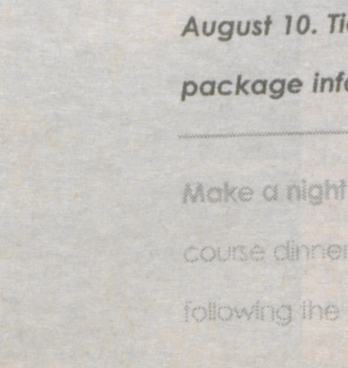
E-mail: derek1@blazenet.net



INTO THE WOODS: Stephen Sondheim's musical fractured fairy tale, filled with magical moments for the whole family, featuring classic characters like Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and his bean stalk, and of course the big bad wolf. ***Showing at Whitaker Center from July 26 to August 10. Tickets are only $27.50 and $15.00. For tickets and package info, call 214-ARTS!***

Make a night of it... Special **Parev** dinner package: $57 for four-course dinner, free parking, orchestra-level seating & dessert following the show! Also, ask about our Hilton lodging package!

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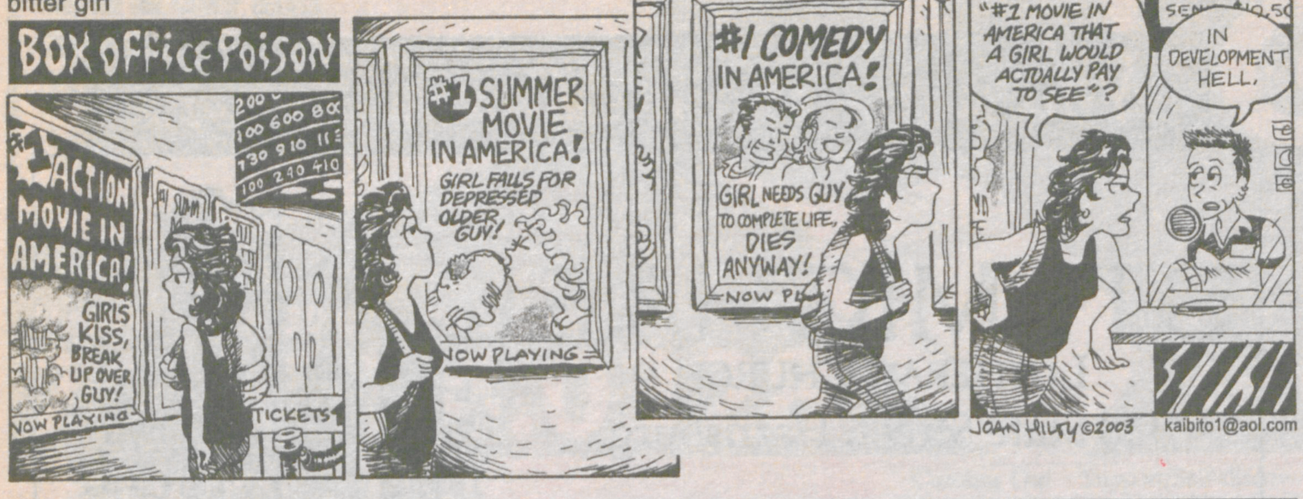
bitter girl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What Else continued

is really happening with our "Gay Reality".

Santorum's Reality: "...what we're talking about, basically, is priests who were having sexual relations with post-pubescent men. We're not talking about priests with 3-year-olds, or 5-year-olds. We're talking about a basic homosexual relationship."

Gay Reality: We're not sure what a "post-pubescent man" is, but in nearby Schuylkill County, a chief of police found two teens, aged 18 and 19, in a remote area with some beer. That's what kids in the northeast's Anthracite Coal Region do - hit the strip mines and drink beer. He noticed a condom on the seat and warned the one lad, whom he knew, that he'd better tell his grandfather that he's gay - or the police official would do so himself. (What a guy!) He quoted Bible passages to the young man, and damned and judged his homosexuality based on his own Christian principles. By morning, the kid was dead from a successful suicide. The *Advocate* found space to run the story. No story ran locally – which speaks directly to the need for *Alternative Central*.

In Snyder County, a man was perceived as "making a pass". He was beaten into in a coma, where he remained for months. No mention of the "gay" aspect in the local daily.

In Emmaus, witnesses last year told police that a man shot and killed a teenage boy following jokes that the boy had a crush on a man. The local daily reported that 15-year-old Kevin, his sister Alicia, a mutual friend Michael, age 24, and three other teens were hanging out in a boardinghouse. Kevin accidentally spit on Michael. When Kevin tried to wipe the saliva off Gambler's arm, Alicia joked, "Oh, what are you, gay, Kevin?" Although Michael laughed at the joke, he grabbed a .45-caliber handgun from underneath a pile of clothes and shot Kevin point-blank in the forehead. "Kevin wasn't gay," Chris, one of the teens in the room at the time, told the local newspaper. Whether Kevin was or wasn't "gay" is irrelevant. The fact that his friend Michael "perceived" him to be gay – and therefore shot him in cold blood - is the issue.

In nearby Williamsport, a girl who eventually shot a friend was taunted with the label "lesbian". Ah, come on. You know what a lesbian is – the biggest male fantasy of straight men is to have sex with two of them: lesbians are okay to play with, just don't get caught in a civil rights march trying to establish that your biggest sexual fantasy needs civil rights too. Although the girl's other troubles, no doubt, influenced her behavior over time – and violence is no solution to any difficulty – funny how this epithet pushed her over the edge. No real reporting on that aspect of the situation.

Violence is what prompted Harrisburg, PA's Dan Miller to speak out at a public meeting some years ago. His employer, Don Demuth, Camp Hill, saw him speaking out on local television against violence towards gays in Harrisburg – and elsewhere – and fired him. The U.S. Supreme Court eventually agreed with his employer's decision. His trails and tribulations became a cover story on *The New Yorker* magazine. Still, there are no civil rights for gay and lesbian, tax-paying Pennsylvanians. We live under taxation without representation – except for the recently passed amendment to Pennsylvania's Hate Crimes Act that now includes sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes.

Protection against being fired because one is gay or lesbian is not a "special right"; it is a right granted to all heterosexuals. Both groups, homosexual and heterosexual, pay taxes, but only one group is protected. To those idiots who would argue

continued on page 18

PRIDE .03 SECTION

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Bars AND CLUBS

704 Strawberry - 704 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.234.4228, Sun. thru Sat. 2 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Altland's Ranch - Orchard Rd. off Rt. 30 12 miles West of York, PA Phone: 717.225.4479 Hours: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. The fun place to be. Located in a rustic area, large dance floor and good music. Website: www.altland-sranch.com

Brownstone Lounge - 412 Forster St., Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.234.7009, Mon. Fri., 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sat. & Sun., 1 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Chumley's - 108 W. College Ave, State College, PA 16801. Phone: 814.238.4446, Mon.-Sat., 5 p.m. til 2 a.m. Sun., 6 p.m. til 2 a.m.

Club168 -168 S. Main St, Manheim, PA. Phone: 717.665.1960, Mon-Wed.,4 p.m. - 2 a.m., Thu.-Sat., 11 a.m. Bar/Restaurant. Men & Women, 35+ crowd, karaoke and live entertainment in 2 lounges. Intimate seating areas around the dance floor. Billards and High Tech arcade.

Stallions Entertainment Complex – 706 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Phone: 717.232.3060. Hours: Mon - Sat 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Shimmer, 18 and Over Dance Club is open Friday & Saturday Nights 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Video lounge at Heaven. Website: www.stallionsclub.com.

Sundown Lounge - 429 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA 17603, Phone: 717.392.2737, Mon.-Sat., 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Tally Ho - 210 Orange St, Lancaster, PA 17604, Phone: 717.299.0661

The Neptune Lounge – 268 North St, Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.233.3078, Sun.,- Sat., 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Pink Lizard Night Club - 891 Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg, PA 17111, Phone: 717.939.1123, Wed.-Sat. 7 p.m.- 2 a.m., Bar/Nightclub. A place for everyone. LGBT & straight. Mostly women. Drag Shows. Email: pinklizard891@aol.com

The Velvet Rope Night Club - 36 W. 11th Ave, York, PA 17404, Phone: 717.812.1474,Tue.-Sun. 6 p.m.- 2 a.m. York Premier Gay and Lesbian Nightclub. Large New York City Style Nightclub. Mixed crowd. Large dance floor. Website: www.clubvelvetrope.com

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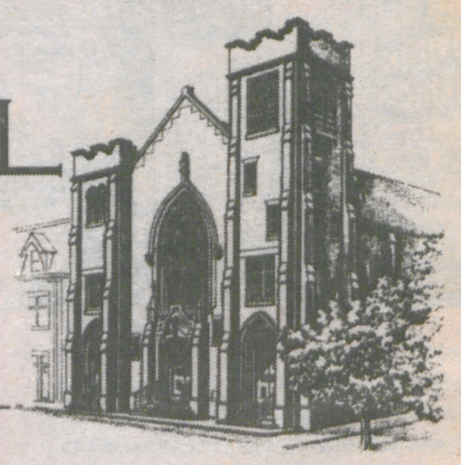

We welcome all people, including our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers. Come get to know us at our Pride Festival booth and Sundays at the church on historic State Street, where we've been ministering together since 1906.

Sundays
WORD AND SACRAMENT 9:00 a.m. through Labor Day
(10:00 a.m. starting September 7)

If you'd like to ask questions of us, call Pastor Mueller at 717.234.0092.

PRIDE .03 SECTION

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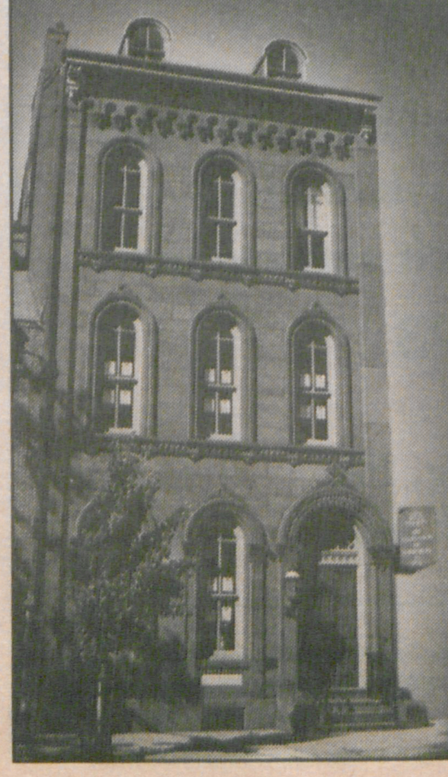

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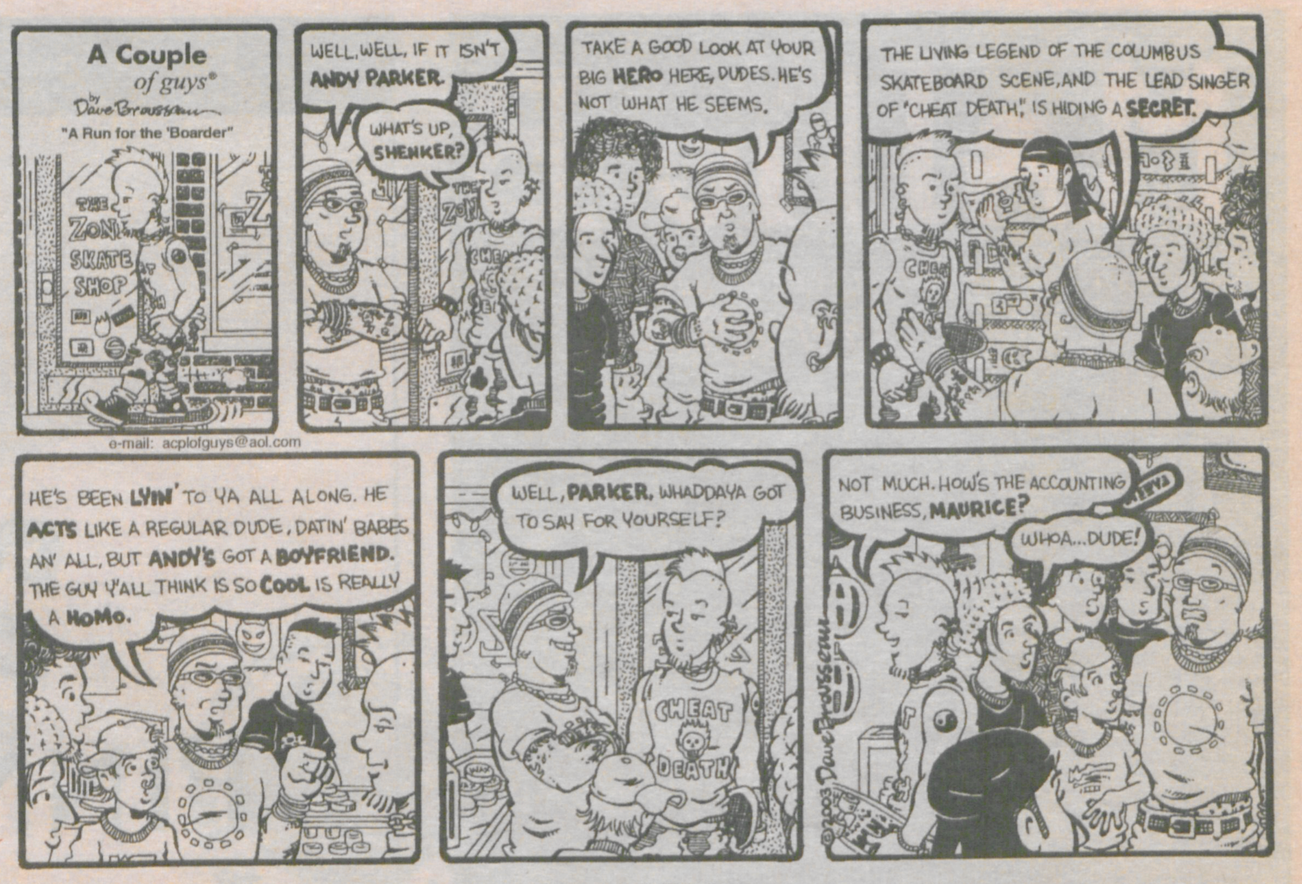
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THE LIVING LEGEND OF THE COLUMBUS SKATEBOARD SCENE, AND THE LEAD SINGER OF "CHEAT DEATH," IS HIDING A SECRET.
HE'S BEEN LYIN' TO YA ALL ALONG. HE ACTS LIKE A REGULAR DUDE, DATIN' BABES AN' ALL, BUT ANDY'S GOT A BOYFRIEND. THE GUY Y'ALL THINK IS SO COOL IS REALLY A HOMO.
WELL, PARKER, WHADDAYA GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
CHEAT DEATH
NOT MUCH. HOW'S THE ACCOUNTING BUSINESS, MAURICE?
WHOA...DUDE!
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Lesbian Notations continued

and asked if I have children - and then been dismissed with confusion or embarrassment when I say no. Gynecologists have even told me patronizingly that I'd change my mind about not wanting to bear a child. In general, there's an assumption out there that women don't _choose_ to be childfree, and that not having kids is therefore a sad "condition."

Motherhood, years of tradition tell us, "fulfills" women, which is why so many of us aspire to it. It's the ultimate grown-up act, the one that transforms self-centered people into responsible adults. In an eerie kind of way, some lesbian self-helpers seem to mimic this thinking. Becoming a mother "is overwhelming, exhausting, terrifying, thrilling, and joyous," gush therapists Suzanne Johnson and Elizabeth O'Connor in their recent book, For Lesbian Parents. "It demands more energy and attention than you knew you had." That's undoubtedly true for many women; but you could very accurately say the same about writing a novel, building a house, creating a software program, or completing a Ph.D.

Given the current surge in lesbian parenting, the moms among us could one day be the majority in our community - maybe even in my lifetime, when I'm a childless crone. If that happens, I hope our institutions and businesses remember and respect that the fight for lesbian parenting rights was all about choice - including the choice to pursue paths other than motherhood. And maybe then the lesbian cruise line will offer me something I can actually use - a "nonmothers-go-free" vacation.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

AskGLSH.org

Hours: M-F 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

717.234.0328

Get Connected to your Community

Spiritual

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) - 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.236.7387, Email: mccofthespirit@cs.com, Website: www.mccofthespirit.org. "A Diverse, Christian Community, Fostering Personal, Spiritual, and Community Growth" MCC of the Spirit reaches out to ALL people and offers many ministry opportunities such as: Gospel Choir, Praise Band, and Just Jam. Sunday services are: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7p.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church - 118 State St. Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: 717.234.0092, Sunday Email: stmichael@paonline.com, Website: www.paonline.com/stmike.

Temple Beth Shalom - 913 Allendale Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, Phone: 717.697.2662, Fax: 717.795.7749 Contact: Rabbi Carl Choper, Email: tbs.temple@verizon.net, Website: www.tbshalom.org. Synagogue with open and affirming LGBT position.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg - 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113, Phone: 717.564.4761 Email: uch@paonline.com, Website: www.paonline.com/uchuua. Provides a mutually supportive liberal religious environment, which nurtures each individual's free and responsible search for personal meaning and growth. Seeking to be a caring and democratic community, we gather to articulate, question, and affirm our beliefs and to develop the courage to act upon them.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York - 925 S. George St, York, PA 17403, Phone: 717.845.8212, Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - noon. Email: office@uucy.org, Website: www.uucy.org.

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley - 2 Forge Rd, PO Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007, Phone: 717.249.8944. The Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley are proud to bring the voice and the practice of liberal religion to the Cumberland Valley region. All are welcome to join us in worship regardless of age, race, religious background, class, or sexual orientation. We come together to support one another in our continuing commitment to a free and loving search for spiritual meaning and to the expression of that meaning in our community and in our personal lives. Adult services and children's religious education are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Unity Church of Harrisburg, 927 Wertzville Road, Enola, Pa 17025, Phone: 717 732-9773. Fax: 717 732-9074, Website: www.unitychurchharrisburg.com, Sunday services, classes, Spiritual & social Support Group for Alternative Lifestyles Group meets twice month.

Support Groups

Coming Out - Support/Self-discovery group for the most difficult and important decisions in the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered people. Call Switchboard for contact information.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg – Boards meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7p.m. Info: 717.234.0328. Members welcome. Email: info@AskGLSH.org. Support Hours: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Lambda AA – Harrisburg -6th and Herr Sts., Harrisburg, PA. Phone: 717.234-5390. Support group for recovering lesbian and gay alcoholics using 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Quaker Meeting House, Lower level. Hours: Mon. 8 p.m. - Fri. 8:30 p.m.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Central PA. Support/Information/Social. Meets 3rd Monday of the month except during August and December. Email: pflagcenpa@-yahoo.com. Tressler/DIAKON Voice: 717.795.0330. 24-hr Hotline: 717.728.8800.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of York. Meets monthly 7 p.m., Lutheran Home, 750 Kelly Dr. York, PA. For more information call 843.3793, 741.1796 or 846.2560.

Rainbow Group, The. (Gay and Lesbian AA). Meets Thursday and Saturday at 8 PM. Trinity Lutheran, 415 N. West St. York. For more information 717.846.2560 or email chuckdk753@aol.com.

Social Organizations

Business Association for Gay and Lesbian (BAGAL) Social/Business Professionals. Meetings every other month. Call Switchboard for information.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24. Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@commonroads.org. Website: www.commonroads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown - PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105, nonprofit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorainpa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball - Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugbydog34@aol.com.

Lambda Car Club - Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

Pennsmen. Leather/Levi/Social. Meets 2nd Sunday of the each month at 5 p.m., North Street Cafe. Website: www.pennsmen.org. Email: info@pennsmen.org or 717.232.3785.

Pride Festival of Central PA- Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.574.1755.

The Rainbow Bowling League - ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. Teams are all men, all women or mixed. Contact: Russ 234-7646 or Mark 763-8444, Hours: Thursday 9:00 p.m. **Renaissance LSV** - Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: renaissancelsv@hotmail.org. Website: www.ren.org. Voice: 717.780.1578.**Susquehanna Valley Bears** - PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

Susquehanna Club - Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org.

Womyn's Chorus of Central PA - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call president Lucy Vincent 717-938-5051.

PRIDE .03 SECTION

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Saturday, September 13, 2003, 7:30 pm

MARY POPPINS
Sunday, September 14, 2003, 2:00 pm

LITTLE RICHARD
Sunday, September 14, 2003, 7:30 pm

THE NOBODIES Of COMEDY
Monday, September 15, 2003, 7:30 pm

NOWHERE IN AFRICA
Tuesday, September 16, 2003, 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

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Wednesday, September 24, 2003, 2:00 pm
Thursday, September 25, 2003, 7:30 pm

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LEAHY – Sunday, October 12, 2003, 7:30 pm
ANNE MURRAY – Wednesday, October 15, 2003, 7:30 pm
CARROT TOP – Sunday, October 19, 2003, 7:30 pm
DON QUIJOTE – Wednesday, October 22, 2003, 7:30 pm
THE TEMPTATIONS – Thursday, October 30, 2003, 7:30 pm

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The Celebration of Pride continued

and gay kinship relationships in approving second parent adoption.

Over the last several years, New Jersey and Massachusetts litigation to establish same-sex couples' right to marry moved steadily forward creating a sure challenge to federal and state "DOMA" laws and proposed "Super-DOMA" laws which dominate the country. Though not marriage, Vermont did establish the first recognition of "civil unions." Domestic partnership initiatives resulted in 11 states and a 100 cities' extension of some social and economic benefits to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

Thousands of private employers and more than a hundred universities offered similar benefits primarily to same-sex couples. The rights of GLBT youth advanced through a range of court decisions, private settlements, education regulations as well as executive orders, holding school officials' liable for ignoring student harassment. In Pennsylvania, education regulations and policies (1993) prohibited sexual orientation discrimination in employment and in educational programs. The Federal Equal Access Law assured that GSAs could be formed in schools on an equal basis with other groups.

Pennsylvania Is Not a Free State

In the midst of regressive and punitive laws and public policy. Pennsylvania did decriminalize its sodomy statutes in 1980. In two of 67 counties and in various cities, *civil rights laws* prohibiting discrimination have been expanded to include the categories sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Last year, a hate crime statute to increase penalties for bias motivated crimes was enacted which legislators know *will neither reduce bias crime nor address the underlying causes of bias and bigotry.*

While there are a number of useful executive orders, departmental policies, and education regulations that prohibit sexual orientation discrimination (the Auditor General's policy extends to gender identity), these policies and regulations lack statutory power and strong enforcement provisions. As noted earlier, 2nd parent adoptions are now recognized, a decision consistent with the state's interest in individuals' personal responsibility for our children. Education regulations are neither implemented nor enforced.

Despite our movement's steady advances, Pennsylvania state law (and federal law) sanctions discrimination against lesbian and gay people as well as transgendered and bisexual people in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations. There is **no statutory right** to be free from discrimination in education on any basis, nor is there any explicit mandate for public educational institutions to **teach** knowledge about and respect for minority groups as part of our society's stated commitment to the values of a democratic and pluralistic society. In contrast to the state's "equal rights amendment," Republican and Democrats fully supported the 1996 adoption of a state version of DOMA to privilege heterosexual marriage and to prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriage. More recently, the legislature used its appropriations power to intimidate state supported public universities from extending basic domestic partnership policies.

PA Records High Levels of Discrimination & Violence: Legislators Sleep at the Wheel

In 1996, the PLGTF published its third statewide study of Discrimination and Violence and presented that study to 25 of 253 thrice invited legislators underscoring the need for inclusive and expansive civil and education rights. Legislators ignored the study and steadfast advocacy to more the Initiative forward. Legislators' failure to act laid the foundation for the findings of plgtf's year 2000 study showing repeatedly high levels of discrimination and violence.

The sampling of 3,000 plus people was obtained with the cooperation of 70 community partners in 57 of 67 counties. The most salient findings: *one of every two gay men and lesbian women* and an untold number of transgendered and bisexual people, have suffered some form of discrimination over their lifetime in employment, housing, public accommodations and education K-16. The majority of respondents in all counties, regardless of civil rights laws, reported high levels of fear of discrimination and re-victimization. Within the Pennsylvania sample, gay men and lesbian women were *three times more likely* to experience criminal violence than USA adults overall.

Consistently, more than one of every two gay men and one of every three lesbian women suffered *school based harassment*. In the Philadelphia sample, African American gay and lesbian people reported remarkably *higher levels* of bias motivated criminal violence compared to their white counterparts. Newspaper accounts, personal testimonies, and personal knowledge reveal, as well, the *extraordinary levels of violence* suffered by transgendered people regardless of sexual orientation.

Victory in Progress: PA Civil Rights Initiative Amendments Introduced Into Senate April 14, 2003. Support SB 608 and SB 609

Celebrating a 25th anniversary milestone, PLGTF was very proud on April 14, 2003 when, with little fanfare, Senator **Vincent Hughes** (D-Philadelphia) introduced into the Senate long proposed Initiative amendments to the critical *Pennsylvania Human Relations Act* and to the postsecondary *Fair Education Opportunities Act*. Original co-sponsors include: Senator Jim Ferlo (D-Allegheny), Senator Sean Logan (D-Allegheny), and Senator Michael Stack (D-Philadelphia). In addition, the office of Democratic Leader Senator Robert Mellow (D-Lackawanna) reports that the Senator has informed the Secretary of the Senate of his co-sponsorship.

Senate Bill 608 amending the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act will: 1) Amend the Act to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression"; 2) Add the category "education" conforming the 1950'state law to federal civil rights laws; 3) strengthen Section 8 of the Act to encourage educational programs that support diversity and pluralism in K-16; and 4) restore eviscerated enforcement mechanisms, *e.g.* the right to a jury trial, the right to reasonable attorney fees, and adding compensatory and punitive damages.

Senate Bill 609 relates only to postsecondary education and will amend the categories "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression" to the misnamed Fair Education Opportunities Act.

In cooperation with a hundred diverse organizations (gay and non-gay, minority and non-minority), and after a *near-seven year struggle*, the Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative legislative proposals, now introduced, will prevail. We invite you to join a collaborative and principled movement to expand, strengthen, and enforce meaningfully civil and education rights on behalf of **all** Pennsylvanians. It is important that the Senate expedite adoption of SB Bill 608 and SB 609 in their entirety with neither weakening amendments nor insults to our community.

Please join the Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative for justice and equality. Support its core principles to guide the process and end results, particularly, its promise of public accountability and integrity in contrast to legislators' preferred private backroom deals. Hold all legislators' "feet to the fire" and through your passion and commitment, help us move towards full civil, education and human rights that are meaningfully enforced on behalf of all people.

We have come a very long way over the last half-century, and have so much farther to go. Initiative statements of support, petitions, and postcards to the Senate and to the House of Representatives are on our web site and are available on request by phone. Please join us and if you can make a special 25th Anniversary gift to support this critical work.

Contact: Rita Addessa, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF), celebrated its 25th Anniversary June, 2003, is located at Friends Center. 1501 Cherry Street. Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479; 215 772-2000 and 1-877-PRIDE-2000 and plgtf@plgtf.org and www.plgtf.org.

PRIDE .03 SECTION

Community CALENDAR

July 12 at 9pm
– The Velvet Rope,
The Alexxus Kane Show, featuring Stephanie Michaels and Michelle Leigh Sterling; $5 Cover

July 18-20
-Susquehanna Club,
- Camping - Cape Henlopen/ Rehoboth Beach, Members: $30 Non-member: $35 In Sussex, DE - Cape Henlopen's beaches attract thousands of visitors who enjoy ocean swimming and sunbathing. The park offers a unique setting of camping in the pine-covered dunes. Adjacent to the park is the historic and quaint borough of Lewes. Just down the road is the popular "gay" destination town of Rehoboth Beach and the North Shores beach area.

July 18 at 11pm –
The Velvet Rope,
Meet the Contestants Show for Miss Gay PA America; $5 Cover

July 25-27
– Susquehanna Club,
Camping, Swallow Falls State Park, Members: $20 Non-member: $25. In Garrett County, MD - This mountain park contains some of Maryland's most breathtaking scenery. The Youghiogheny River flows along the park's borders, passing through shaded rocky gorges and creating rippling rapids. Muddy Creek Falls is a crashing 53-foot waterfall - a spectacular sight. Tall hemlocks dominate the silent woods. The meandering trails through Swallow Falls guide hikers to some of the most breath-taking scenery in Western Maryland. Nearby Herrington Manor State Park, four miles south, offers a 53-acre lake with a swimming beach, boat rentals, and a snack bar during the summer season.

August 1 at 11pm
– The Velvet Rope,
Miss Gay PA Review Show; $5 Cover

August 2 at 9pm
– The Velvet Rope,
Miss Gay PA America Pageant 2004 featuring Miss Gay America 2003 Dominique Sanchez; $10 Cover

August 8-10
– Susquehanna Valley Bears,
Annual Bears in the Park in the Dark. Bears in the Park is the annual bear event for the Susquehanna Valley Bears. We invite bears and their admirers to join us for a weekend of fun in Harrisburg. During the weekend, event goers enjoy parties and the Harrisburg night life along with a trip to HersheyPark and a farewell brunch on Sunday. This year SVB moved the HersheyPark to a night visit, so that everyone can enjoy the Hershey park night time attractions. Costs: For the event itself - $50 without a HersheyPark ticket / $75 with HersheyPark ticket. For hotel accommodations at the Harrisburg Hilton - event rate of $92/night up to four persons per room. More information on the event: visit www.svbears.com or email info@svbears.com

August 15-17
– Susquehanna Club,
Camping, World's End State Park, PA, Members $25 Non-Members $30 In Sullivan County, PA - Virtually in a class by itself, this wild, rugged and rustic area seems almost untouched. Hiking on the Loyalsock Trail attracts many visitors to mountain laurel and fall foliage. Canyon Vista, reached via Mineral Spring and Cold Run Roads, provides outstanding views. Nearby is the scenic town of Eagles Mere.

August 16 at 10pm
– The Velvet Rope,
The Alexxus Kane Show featuring Ashley Alexander and Brooke Layne; $5 Cover

August 21, 22, 24
– Pink Lizard,
Nunsense A-Men. A heavenly musical comedy presented by Community Theater for AIDS Projects. Directed by Janine Steigerwald. A benefit to support AIDS outreach programs. For more information and ticket sales contact The Pink Lizard at 717-939-1123.

Helplines and Crisis Intervention

Contact Helpline
- 717.657.4400
Dauphin County Crisis
– 717.232.7511

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg – Support Hours: M-F: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Some weekend support. 717.234.0328. Email: info@AskGLSH.org.

Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women - PO Box 359, Lancaster, PA 17608, Phone: 717.299.1249, Contact: Deb Bolton, non-profit domestic violence services.
Holy Spirit Crisis
– 717.763.2222

Market PLACE

LGBT and LGBT friendly businesses may place their two-line add in our Market Place section for $15.00 per issue. For all other advertising please see the Benchmark Media contact information listed on page 3.

——àArchitectural & Home Improvement

AJ's Landscaping - 218 Juniper Drive, Etters, PA 17319, Phone: 717-424-8016, Fax: 717-938-6857, Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Contact: Allan Pollard.

Classic Interior & Exterior Design - 222 E. Lemon St., Lancaster, PA 17602, Phone: 717.393.6725, Contact: Chris Mandros.

Hyatt Industrial, Inc. - PO Box 100, Peach Bottom, PA 17563, Phone: 717.548.4200, Contact: Iris Hyatt, Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Contractors: Electrical & General.

——àFinancial Services

American Express Financial Advisors - 30-D, E. Roseville Rd., Lanc., PA 17601, Phone: 717.581.5888 x.102, Fax: 717.581.5885, Contact: Jordan A. Arnold, Hours: 9am-8pm.

Appearance Counts Accounting Firm, Inc. - 85 Maple St, Littlestown, PA 17340, Phone: 717.337.0711, Contact: John M. Davis. Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Miller & Associates, CPA's - 701 N. 2nd St, Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.234.2250
Contacts: Dan Miller/George Dixon/Marcy Drake, Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Charter One Mortgage – Phone 717.737.1401, Voice Mail 717.230.4200, Fax 717.761.4171. Contact: Donna Goss.

——à Health Care (AIDS/HIV)

Lebanon Family Health Services - 834 Cumberland St., Lebanon, PA 17042, Phone: 717.273.6741, Contact: Joellen Rakow, Hours: M & W 9 – 8, Tue, Thurs & Fri 9 – 5.

——à Health Care (Alcohol and Drugs/Addictions)

Pride Institute - 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344, Phone: 952.934.7554, Contact: Jerry LaFave, Hours: M – F, 7:30 - 4:30, LGBT dependancy treatment facility.

——à Health Care (Dental)

Colonial Dental Group – 4940 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112, Phone: 717.901.7045. Contact: Tammy Hajjar, DMD.

——à Health Care (Medical Health Services)

Penn State Hershey Medical Center - PO Box 850, Hershey, PA 17033, Phone: 717.531.8478, Contact: Julie, Reproductive Endocrinology.

REACCH Program, Pinnacle Health - 2645 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.782.2750, Fax: 717.782.4761, Contact: Victoria Stueckroth, Hours: 8 - 4:30, M-Fri.

——à Health Care (Mental Health Services)

Bette R. Weinberger, ACSW - 240 Division St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.233.7153, Contact: Bette Weinberger, Hours: M & W, 8:30 – 9, Tues, 11:30 - 9.

Community Medical Associates - 3601 N. Progress Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.652.7266, Contact: Dr. Little or Dr. Beck, Hours: M – F, 8 - 8, Family medicine.

Family & Children's Services of the Capital Region - 121 Locust St., Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: 717.238.8118, Contact: Sharon Heffner, Hours: M, W, F, 8:30 a. – 5 p.

Jewish Family Services of Greater Harrisburg, Inc. - 3333 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.233.1681, Contact: Helen Cohen, Hours: Monday thru Friday.

continued on page 16

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Kathryn Ellis, Franco Psychological Assoc. - 26 State Ave., Carlisle, PA 17013, Phone: 717.243.1896, Contact: Kathryn Ellis, Hours: M – Thurs, 8 - 8 p.m. Friday, 9 - 5 p.m.

Lindsey Counseling Services - 30 S. Bedford St., Carlisle, PA 17013, Phone: 717.258.0799, Contact: Cathy Lindsey, Hours: By appt. Call and leave message.

New Passages - 3235 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.234.3839, Hours: M – F, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Call for insurances covered

Pinnacle Psychological Assoc - 205 S. Front St., P.O. Box 8700, Harrisburg, PA 17105, Phone: 717.231.8360, Contact: Kate Bordley, MSS, LCSW, Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Reigler Shienvold & Associates. - 2151 Linglestown Rd., Suite 200, Hbg., PA 17110, Phone: 717.540.1313, Contact: Melinda Eash, Hours: M – Thurs, 8 – 8, Fri, 8 – 5.

Susan L Gilius M.S. - 20 Erford Road, Suite 101, Lemoyne, PA 17043, Phone: 717.730.8555, Contact: Susan Gilius, Hours: M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

——àInsurance Services

State Farm Insurance, Co. - 118 N. 5th St, Reading, PA 19601, Phone: 610.375.3001, Contact: Javier Ortega-Benitez. Hours: M – F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

——àLegal Services

Butler Law Firm - 500 N 3rd St., PO Box 1004 , Harrisburg, PA 17108, Phone: 717.236.1485, Contact: Ronald Butler, Hours: M – F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., General practice.

Dauphin County Lawyer Referral Service - 213 N. Front St, Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: 717.232.7536, Contact: Don Morgan, Hours: M, Tu, Th & F, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Derek Cordier, Esquire – 319 South Front Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17104, 717-919-4002. (Openly Gay Attorney) Wills & Estates, Family Law, Bankruptcy, and LGBT issues.

Hershel Lock, Esq. - 3107 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.238.6661, Contact: Connie, Hours: M – F, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., General Law practice.

Law Offices of Austin Gorgan - 24 N 32nd St., Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.737.1956, Contact: Austin Gorgan or Rhonda Rudy, Hours: M – F, 8 am. To 6 p.m.

National Center for Lesbian Rights - 870 Market St., Suite 570, San Francisco, CA 94102, Phone: 415.392.627, Contact: Kate Kendell, Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. 5 p.m.

——àRealtors

Jack Gaughen Realtor ERA - 117 Beacon Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Phone: 717.761.4800, Contact: Dave Heffron, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Prudential, Thompson Wood Real Estate – 3815 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.761.8353, Contact: Sandra Cordier.

Re/Max Realty Associates, Inc. – 3425 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.761.6300, Direct Dial: 717.441.5608, Contact: Ray Davis.

——àRetail/Services

Blooms by Vickery – 2201 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.737.0212, Fax: 717.737.7646, Toll Free: 888.711.8181, flowers, gifts, silks, weddings.

Bridgesgallery.com – 1112 North 14th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103-1202. Phone: 717.903.7933, gallery hours by appointment, Gay & lesbian fine art and photography.

Cookies by Design – 3300 Hartzdale Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.763.8883, Store Manager: Jason F. Adams, cookie arrangements for all occasions.

Cordier Antiques & Fine Art –2201 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.731.8662, Hours: M - F, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat.10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hair Root 22 –3431 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, Phone: 717.545.3301, hair salon, facials, waxing, tanning, massage, and yoga. Aveda Retail Center, by appt.

Le Cureo Leather - 3830 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109, Phone: 717.545.0988, Contact: Felix Fermin, Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., leather apparel.

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Pink Lizard Stages 3rd Annual Golf Tour

"RALLY FOR A CURE"

The Pink Lizard will hold its third annual "Rally for a Cure" golf tour on Sunday, September 14th at the Silver Spring Golf Course. Come out for a wonderful day of golf and fundraising for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The tour will be a scramble format with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start open to women, men and mixed teams. Entry fee is $65/person, $260/team and includes 18-hole golf with cart, food and beverages. Prizes will be awarded for closest-to-the-pin and a hole-in-one. Get a group together or enter individually. Individuals and companies interested in sponsoring a hole, can call (see number below) with any questions and to request additional details.

RSVP: ASAP! Registration forms are available at the Pink Lizard Night Club and the Silver Spring Golf Course. Deadline for registration and payments is Monday, September 8th, 2003. Donations are also accepted. For more information, call Marcia at 717.939.1123 or email: pinklizard891@aol.com.

The goal of Rally for a Cure is to increase awareness of the need for early detection of breast cancer and to raise funds to support breast cancer research.

Gay Comey

Nunsense was a musical comedy written by Danny Goggin that took Broadway by storm. The story of six sisters, members of the "LITTLE SISTERS OF HOBOKEN" whose order gets hit by a case of botulism when their somewhat inept member SISTER JULIA cooks bad vichysoisse.

The order loses some of their beloved sisters to the dreaded disease and only has enough money to bury all but four. The Mother Superior decides to have a benefit show to raise money to bury them.

Put six nuns on stage to sing, and dance and you have an evening full of fun and surprises. The music is nothing short of toe tapping, hand clapping fun. The comedy is uproariously funny. BUT, put six MEN on stage as nuns and you have the formula for an evening of sheer delight.

NUNSENSE AMEN! The ingenious twist to this production will be staged at the PINK LIZARD in Harrisburg and directed by Janine Steigerwald August 21st, 22nd and 24th to raise money for local community-related AIDS outreach programs

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"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors" - Plato

Vote

The Following is a list of addresses of voter registration centers where you can obtain information about voting in your area and also register to vote.

Centre County
420 Holmes St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823-1488
(814) 355-6703

Dauphin County
PO Box 1295
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1295
(717) 255-2793

Franklin County
157 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17201-2211
(717) 261-3886

Lancaster County
PO Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 18503-3480
(717) 299-8293

Lebanon County
400 S. Eighth St.
Lebanon, PA 17042-6794
(717) 274-2801 Ext. 2248

Perry County
P.O. Box 37
New Bloomfield, PA 17068-0037
(717) 582-8984

York County
100 West Market Street
York, PA 17401-1256
(717) 771-9604

Longaberger Baskets, Linda Nuss – 529 Stone Hill Road, Connestoga, PA 17516, Phone: 717.871.1787, Contact: Linda Nuss. Beautiful hand crafted baskets and more.

àTravel / Bead & Breakfast's

Battlefield Bed & Breakfast - 2264 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, Phone: 717.334.8804, Contact: Florence Tarbox, 1809 Civil War home.

Coral Reef Guesthouse - Fort Lauderdale, 2609 NE 13th Court, Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33304, Phone: 954.568.0292, Toll Free: 888.ENJOY IT. Contact: Jeff Boss.

The Arrowheart Inn - 3021 Valley View Dr., Bangor, PA 18013, Phone: 610.588.0241, Contact: Ed Hill. Hours: 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

àVideo & Bookstores

Giovanni's Room - 345 S 12th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, Phone: 215.923.2960, Contact: Ed Hermance, bookstore.

Lambda Rising - 1625 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009, Phone: 202.462.6969, bookstore.

Lambda Rising - 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore, MD 21201, Phone: 410.234.0069, bookstore.

TLA Entertainment Group - 234 Market St., 5th Fl, Philadelphia, PA 19106, Phone: 215.733.0608, Hours: M – F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Video Store.

Harrisburg Parks Partnership

Park C. Squirrel

Common Roads Presents AWARD-WINNING FILM

"Jim in Bold" September 28

Common Roads, the Harrisburg-based LGBTQ youth group, will sponsoring the first Harrisburg showing of Glen Holsten's award-winning documentary film "Jim In Bold" Sunday, September 28 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Pennsylvania State Museum, located on the corner of North & 3rd Streets, Harrisburg.

A panel discussion and a reception will follow the film's screening. Holsten, collaborated with Young Gay America in the making of the film.

Common Roads (717-920-9534) is the only LGBTQ youth center in operation between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Youth from central Pennsylvania can congregate in a safe and confidential environment and just "be themselves".

"Jim In Bold" typifies what is going on with many of the youth who come to Common Roads," says Carol Reisinger, Executive Director. "Perhaps if Jim Wheeler, after whom the film is named, had known about Common Roads, there would have been a different outcome to his life. Too often these young people are threatened and harassed, and the very people who should support them in school fail to do so." The film draws on Wheeler's story as the framework to fuse two very different experiences of youth in America. By reconstructing the emotional journey which led to his unfortunate death, the film reveals the many warning signs that pointed to his suicide, including his writings, paintings, and pleas to friends and family to assist him.

The film also explores how a high school system tolerated the kind of bigotry and harassment Jim endured daily as a student at Cedar Crest High School in Lebanon. The film simultaneously reveals a hopeful aspect of being young and gay in America, by documenting the activities of Young Gay America founders Benjie Nycum and Mike Glatze as they traveled around the U.S. and interviewed gay teens.

"Jim In Bold" features many resilient gay teens who are creating and promoting a positive self-image of young, gay America. Common Roads will use the proceeds from this event to match funds received from the Gill Foundation to develop a curriculum and educational program for school counselors and psychologists.

Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss this very powerful film. You will be able to meet with some of those involved in making the movie and see it before it moves to a national distribution.

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"Business is Good FOR THE COMMUNITY"

Showcases LGBT and LGBT-friendly Businesses: Belvedere Inn

By Ben Patenaude- Alternative Central Co-editor

The Belvedere Inn in Lancaster is one of the top picks on my list for a wonderful evening to relax and socialize in a friendly atmosphere. The upscale, casual restaurant and bar provides freshly prepared food, which is always excellent, and a range of fine beverages to compliment your experience. The atmosphere is elegant and low key. The dress code is casual so you can relax and have a good time.

During warmer times of year, the terrace on the second floor is open for outside dining or cocktails, where guests are surrounded by flowers and the sound of water from the fountain. Up the stairs on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights you will find live entertainment, usually jazz, at Crazy Shirley's Lounge, which is a full-service bar and lounge.

The Belvedere was once a mansion, built by the owner of a tobacco plantation, James Rhor, in approximately 1876. It became the Belvedere on July 1st of 1998 and was founded by John Keares, Dean Oberholtzer, Owen Sechrist, Shirley Fultineer and Dwayne Bell.

I would recommend making reservations for a dining experience you will never forget. The food, service, atmosphere, and décor are all excellent.
(A small sample of possibilities from the menu follows.)

Appetizer

Grilled Confit of Duck

1/2 Duck Breast w/ Marion Blackberry vinaigrette, herbed goat cheese, Phyllo pastry...$9

Entres

Salmon a la Nage

Filet of Atlantic salmon with a honey-ginger glaze and blackened sesame poached in a court bouillon with red bliss potatoes, leeks, bok-choy and baby carrots...$15

Belvedere Crab Cakes

(These things are huge!)
4 oz Cakes of fresh lump crab meat and seasonings served with lemon Mosto oil, roasted red pepper, asparagus, and wild rice pilaf...$25

Salad

Caesar Salad

(My personal favorite with salmon! This is half a head of romaine!)
Romaine lettuce char-grilled, drizzled with our house made Caesar dressing and sprinkled with Reggiano Parmigiano cheese...$6
served with your choice of the following:
grilled chicken...$9
pan-seared tenderloin tips...$13
Gulf shrimp and sea scallops...$17
Blackened Salmon...$12

I have succeeded in making myself hungry, thinking about the Caesar salad and those enormous crab cakes which they make fresh daily from lump crab meat. I can eat a fair amount of food and have always found the portions at the Belvedere to be generous.

To contact them call 717-394-2422 or visit their web site at www.belvederepa.com and as always you could just visit them at 402 North Queen St. in Lancaster, PA 17603.

What Else continued

that homosexuality is "wrong" so they must fire us, so is divorce and abortion wrong to many individuals, but we don't allow employers to fire people because they pursue a divorce or choose an abortion. Some Christian True Believers shoot doctors who perform abortions, but that's another story.

Santorum's Reality: The senator indicated that he thought "liberalism" takes away power from families. In response to how "conservatism" gives families more power, he noted that "putting more money in their pocketbook" is one way. As he pointed out, the average American family pays about 25 percent of their annual income in federal taxes. That includes LGBT individuals, couples, and families, relationships Santorum feels, under his code of "moral equivalency" that he has a right to judge. "My feeling is, well, if it's my money, I have a right to judge". ***Gay Reality:*** Reality check senator: It's not all *your* money, only the portion you pay in taxes. Our community, and its families, and friends, and parents, and supportive employers and institutions, have a right to judge also. And we judge that Santorum is the American Taliban and that cannot effectively serve our interests as hard-working taxpaying citizens. We will not accept taxation without representation. As one state resident wrote in his *Letter to the Editor* on Santorum, he believed that "liberty-loving Americans should think hard about this trend of mixing religion into government".

Santorum's Reality: The senator believes that the root of all evil stems from "moral relativism", which, as he told the AP, "is very accepting of a variety of different lifestyles. And if you make the case that if you can do whatever you want to do, as long as it's in the privacy of your own home, this 'right to privacy,' then why be surprised that people are doing things that are deviant within their own home? If you say, there is no deviant as long as it's private, as long as it's consensual, then don't be surprised what you get."

Gay Reality: Like research on homophobia published in "The Journal of Abnormal Psychology" notes, "Homophobia is apparently associated with homosexual arousal that the homosexual individual is either unaware of or denies". We guess that explains why some guys like Santorum seem to have "gay on the brain" syndrome – it's not us, but rather their own "stuff" they can't deal with.

Santorum's Reality: "I have no problem with homosexuality. I have a problem with homosexual acts."

Gay Reality: Our communities, some of whom are conservative, have no problem with Santorum. We do have a problem with him when he "acts" or sometimes opens his mouth. As Santorum constituents Fran and Allen Kirchner of Philadelphia told the media following their meeting with him on May 1," We tired to reach him on the human level, and we found no humanity there." Former constituent Melina Waldo, who also attended the meeting, described Santorum as "condescending, belligerent, argumentative and arrogant". Columnist Rich Lewis (Carlisle) *The Sentinel*, wrote," I'm not saying he's a snotty, self-righteous jerk…Well, actually, I am." Parent of a gay son Renee K. Singer wrote in a local daily "People with views like Sen. Santorum's have long been responsible for the fears, and even the suicides of many wonderful young people."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said about two weeks after the media controversy that Santorum has "100 percent confidence" of Senate Republicans, despite his remarks. He added that Santorum will remain as the third-ranking Republican leader behind Frist and Assistant Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. Immediately following release of his comments, many critics had called for his resignation from the GOP leadership post.

Other Republican leaders echoed Frist's support. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said, "I'm very proud of Rick Santorum standing on principle." We wonder exactly which principle he stood on with his remarks. The principle of name calling?

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Santorum, "is our greatest champion for inclusiveness and fairness," the *AP* reported. We wonder how Santorum's remarks were meant to "include" rather than "exclude" the LGBT community.

Perhaps National Stonewall Democrats head Dave Noble said it best with, "Statements like these prove that congressional Republicans are living in some sort of bizarro world where up is down, day is night and exclusion is inclusion." We couldn't agree more.

Santorum is up for re-election in 2006. If we don't organize, register to vote, and then vote, and Santorum is re-elected, then we can't complain when he gives the media another American Taliban interview. We must at least *try* to unseat him. With regard to the senator, parent-of-a-gay son Singer asked that "all, especially those who are 'different' in any way, to denounce him. A bigot is a bigot. What "different" group will be next, she asked?

Freelance writer Frank Pizzoli's work appears nationally in Instinct, POZ, Body Positive, and New York Blade. He is a 2001 Points of Light Foundation award winner for his work with Positive Opportunities (PosOps@aol.com), a benefits counseling and job placement service for HIV-positive people in central PA supported by Broadway Cares, Greater Harrisburg Foundation and AIDS Community Alliance. He is former editor of Central Penn Business Journal, and former contributing editor of Citybeat and Mode. He speaks around the country on gay men's health issues and is affiliated with the Gay Men's Health Summits.

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